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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposed relocation of all adult businesses to a portion of Middle Road?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Shot Dead
A man barged into the Arkansas Democratic HQ and fatally shot the state party chairman.
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Defiant Russia
A Russian military convoy defied a cease-fire agreement and rolled through a city in Georgia.
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James Franco
Don't get the wrong impression about James Franco just because of his spot-on performance in "Pineapple Express."
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'I find that CUC Power Plant 1's engines will be unable to provide power necessary to meet basic needs of the island and that one or more of its engines is so damaged by wear and lack of adequate maintenance for many years that it may experience a catastrophic failure.'

— Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

NMI under state of disaster

Fitial warns of catastrophic failure at CUC plant

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant generation facility in Lower Base.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has declared a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI, citing that one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base could explode at any time, maiming or killing power plant workers.

"This declaration is necessary to protect the health and safety of our children, or senior citizens, businesses and all other CNMI residents and visitors," Fitial said.

See NMI on Page 4

New trade school builds hope

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

"Right now it looks like a maze," electrical instructor Al Cabael says, holding up the tangled Day-Glo yellow and blue safety harness for his afternoon students to see. "But you can see how it fits together. You'll have to do that today."

In moments, Cabael has strapped on the harness to demonstrate how it is worn, buckling a metal clasp to secure it across

Pellegrino

Full power by Sept. 16—Aggreko

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Relief is in sight.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, CNMI lawmakers and Antonio Muna, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., met with an Aggreko International representative Thursday to set Sept. 16 as the target date Aggreko generators will be ready to service the island.

Muna

CUC hired the U.K.-based Aggreko to provide up to 15 megawatts of power capac-

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More workers leaving the CNMI than arriving. **PAGE 5**

Barry Wonenberg creating two sculptures in China. **PAGE 7**

Local

Pete A. pushes for interagency agreements on federalization

In recent letters sent to the Secretaries of Homeland Security, Labor and Interior, CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio requested that agreements mandated by Public Law 110-229 and emphasized by the recent GAO study on the law be developed as soon as possible.

Tenorio stated in the letters that after carefully reviewing the GAO study, titled *Managing Potential Economic Impact of Applying U.S. Immigration Law Requires Coordinated Federal Decisions and Additional Data*, "it is evident that an interagency process to coordinate decisions relating to the implementation of Public Law 110-229 must be established by the departments of Homeland Security, Labor, and Interior."

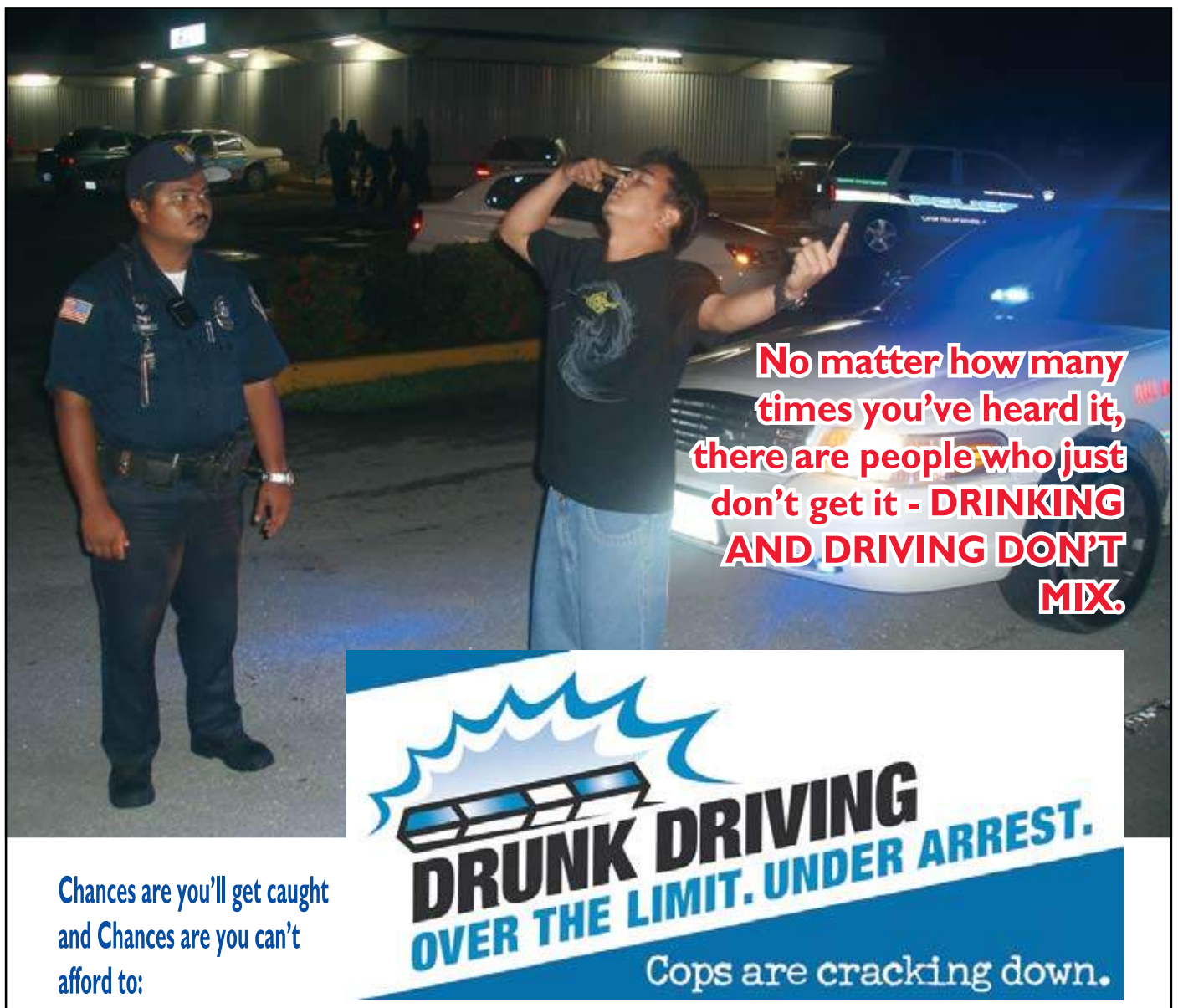
"The law is very clear, not only are the agreements mandatory but they are to be utilized to develop procedures to ensure that Commonwealth employers have access to adequate labor, and that tourists, students, retirees, and other visitors have access to the Commonwealth without unnecessary delay or impediment," said Tenorio.

"Poor coordination, inflexible regulations, or hasty decisions could adversely impact the economy of the CNMI in clear contradiction with the intent of Congress which instructed that the Commonwealth be "given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities," he added in the letter.

Tenorio pointed out that "with the upcoming presidential election, a change of upper level policy makers is guaranteed. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the interagency agreement called for in the law be created now, otherwise the process will be starting from scratch, and will be delayed until new Departmental Secretaries and their subordinates are confirmed by the Senate next year." If the agreements are not in place prior to this transitional period, career employees may not be able to make progress or may lose sight of the intent of the law, explained Tenorio.

Tenorio also suggested that the Governor be provided a significant role in the agreements since the law requires the various agencies to consult with the Governor on many of the important decisions that will need to be made.

"It is important that the Governor play a vital role in the implementation of this law, and not just during the development of the regulations but also during the entire transition period and all of its extensions," said Tenorio. ***(PR)***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What is Rydlyme?

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rydlyme is a strong chemical that is used to dissolve water scale deposits in pipes and that if instructions are not strictly followed it can cause leaks or damage the equipment, according to an official at a power plant.

The official told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Rydlyme, produced by Apex Engineering Products Corp., is also intended to dissolve water scale deposits in cooling passages without dismantling the equipment or pipes.

"Scale deposits in the cooling systems act as insulators, which decreases the efficiency of the heat transfer between mediums," the official explained.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s allegedly questionable purchase of thousands of gallons of Rydlyme has led to the indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Villagomez Santos, her husband Commerce Secretary James Santos, and former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero.

According to the indictment, of the 8,175 gallons of Rydlyme that remain unused, at least 1,485 gallons are in storage on Rota.

With the 1998 to 2000 purchases, CUC reportedly experienced damage to some equipment. This resulted in the limited use of Rydlyme only for other purposes such as cleaning tools, cement floors, and plumbing systems. Most of the chemical was disposed of or put in storage.

Notwithstanding the presence of such chemical on Rota, the indictment states that CUC purchased an additional 3,000 gallons in 2007 using sole-source emergency purchase.

As of the date of the indictment filed on July 22, 2008, only 355 gallons of the 3,000 gallons of Rydlyme acquired in the 2007 purchase has reportedly been used by CUC.

The power plant official stressed that no manufacturer will produce chemicals that will cause damage, otherwise they will be out of business.

He said chemicals always come with the instructions on proper use, which the user has to strictly follow.

"Rydlyme is no different. However, since it is rather strong, it should either be diluted or the time of flushing is shortened, otherwise the chemical itself will eat through the piping and/or equipment, causing leaks or damage," the official said.

The official underscored the need to have a knowledgeable person or an expert who should supervise the process of using Rydlyme.

Saipan Tribune's check with the privately operated Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, Saipan indicates that the plant has not been using the chemical.

Power Plant 4 has always been using soft water (distillers) in its cooling system, resulting in no formation of scales in their system.

Updates sought for outdated 'Uniform Commercial Code'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House Floor Leader Joseph Norita Camacho has introduced a 400-page bill that intends to modernize the CNMI Uniform Commercial Code.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the CNMI Uniform Commercial Code has not been updated for almost 30 years.

"It is a bill that we have been working on since I first took office in January [2008]," said Camacho in an e-mail.

The official said that business and commercial transactions have changed with the advent of computers, ATMs, Internet, credit cards, debit cards, etc., and his bill is intended to make the CNMI Uniform Commercial Code in-line with the rest of the United States and the world.

The NMI Uniform Commercial Code was created through Public Law 3-56, which is almost three decades old.

In his legislation, Camacho said the CNMI has undergone many changes in the world of business and is now an active member of the global economy.

"The way people conduct business has greatly changed, mostly in part through computers, the Internet, and other means of transaction. The means of commerce and trade has changed significantly over the years," he said.

Camacho noted the many changes and ingenuity with respect to how transactions are conducted.

"Therefore, it is the purpose of this bill to update and modernize the CNMI's Uniform Commercial Code, to a more contemporary means of conducting business," he said.

Under the proposed measure, the Department of Commerce is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the intent and provisions of the Act.

Marriage fraud suspect guilty on two counts

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

A jury found a Bangladeshi man accused of helping orchestrate two sham marriages guilty on two counts stemming from one of the marriages.

Minto Minto was found guilty of conspiring to commit marriage fraud and solicitation stemming from a planned marriage between Muhammad Saiful Islam and Alisilynn Mallens.

Minto was acquitted on the same charges in relation to a planned marriage between Munaf Miah and Severene Kosam.

Assistant Attorney General Melissa Simms, who was assisted by Katie Busenkell, said she was happy with the outcome.

"I'm very pleased with the verdict and confident the jury took their time making a decision," she said.

Simms said she respects the jury's decision that they did not have enough evidence to convict Minto on the other two counts.

Steve Pixley, Minto's court-appointed lawyer, said he was disappointed Minto was not acquitted on all counts, but thought the jury was very attentive.

Pixley said he is exploring legal options for appeal.

He also said he thought Simms handled the case well.

Minto will be sentenced Oct. 8 at 9am.

According to the charging information, in March 2007 Maria Aurelio Ray, Islam and Minto agreed on a plan for Islam to marry Mallens for the sole purpose of obtaining labor and immigration benefits.

Also in March 2007, Ray, Miah and Minto allegedly conspired that Miah would marry Kosam for the purpose of obtaining labor and immigration benefits.

In July, Miah was found guilty of soliciting marriage fraud, but he was acquitted on the charge of conspiring with others to commit marriage fraud.

In May, a jury found Ray guilty of two counts of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud, but acquitted her on two counts of solicitation.

Islam fled to Bangladesh before he could be tried.

Generator stolen from restaurant

The generator at Jhem's Restaurant in Garapan was stolen Wednesday morning, restaurant staff members told the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

At about 6am, staff members realized the cables locking up the generator had been cut, and the equipment itself was missing, a staff member said.

The staff reported the stolen generator, worth $1,300, to the police.

This is the second time the restaurant has had something stolen. Last year, staff said, $180 and a camera were stolen from the restaurant.

The police has yet to issue a formal report on the latest incident.

(Kristi Eaton)

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NEW

From Page 1

his chest and linking a safety line to one of its U-shaped rings. Next come the hard hat, the goggles and the gloves, all the fittings of a modern construction worker ready for a day's labor. Among the tests today at the newly opened Northern Marianas Trades School is whether the handful of students watching can duplicate this routine.

"Okay, now it's your turn," he says. "Who's going first?"

A pregnant pause follows with each of them quietly urging one another to go ahead of the others.

"Ladies first," one says to 22-year-old Loretta Romolor, the class' lone female student—here to study carpentry and construction techniques—who rolls her eyes playfully and steps forward, pursued by some nervous laughter.

Romolor makes quick work of the routine, connecting the harness' straps and buckles as her fellow students watch to memorize how.

The lesson is a simple one, designed to equip these students with the basic essentials to work on a construction site or in any one of several vital trades. Yet Romolor and 36 others like her, including six women, are playing a critical role in one local philanthropist's bid—with support from the community—to bolster the CNMI's skilled labor force and revive its economy by giving these students the skills they need to have meaningful trade-based careers.

"Our only requirement to attend this school is that you have an intense passion to learn a trade," says Anthony Pellegrino, the businessman who opened the nonprofit school nearly six weeks ago, financing its startup costs on his own dime.

The school, soon to begin a major expansion outside of the small series of classrooms it now occupies in the village of Dandan, trains students to become carpenters, plumbers and electricians. After completing coursework in their field, the students will gain a journeyman's license that empowers them to work anywhere in the United States, Guam or the CNMI as a skilled tradesman.

Training these students, Pellegrino says, is vital to the CNMI's economic future as the pending federal takeover of local immigration and foreign labor rules draws nigh. Business leaders throughout the CNMI, an economy now largely dependant on foreign workers, have long said that "federalization" could cost them the skilled labor they need. Pellegrino believes that his school is the first step to addressing the shortage of specialized tradesmen this shift in the workforce could create.

"Now is the time to start training these people," Pellegrino says, adding the school can help to "fill the gigantic vacuum" of foreign workers federalization might cause.

Yet the training students receive at the school—guided by four instructors—is only one dimension of Pellegrino's plan to help get their careers off the ground. He has already helped a handful of them find jobs where they can apply their skills during the day to "complete the cycle," as he put it, of their trade education. And to keep them engaged in building a new career, Pellegrino has also had adopted a new role as a motivational speaker.

"Come out of your shells, please," he said recently to one of the school's larger classes. "You're all winners here. If you want to make money, you can create it with your hands if you just believe in yourself."

Pellegrino's coaching has paid off. Talking to the students reveals most are hopeful their training will lead to a promising life.

"This is a great opportunity for folks to learn a trade," says 20-year-old Chris Eugenio, now training to become a plumber. "It's fun. You get to meet lots of people and you get to learn, actually learn."

Aloysius Romolor, 26, is aiming to become a carpenter. Working with his hands, he said, is almost second nature.

"I've always done stuff like that, helping around the house," he says. "I want to learn this and maybe build my own house one day."

Others have come to find a brand of subtle beauty in the work they are learning.

"It's like art," Loretta Romolor says. "Carpentry and the blueprints, when I look at that, it's art to me."

The new trade school is structured to operate around the daily schedules of its students—who range in age from 17 to 55—with evening classes at least two nights a week for two and a half hours. Students start with classes that train them in basic safety procedures, the use of power and hand tools, and how to read blueprints.

After completing their initial training, students then move forward into more specialized classes focused on the trades they have chosen and upon graduation, the school provides them help in starting private trade businesses.

After only six weeks, the potential the school has to revitalize the CNMI's economy with skilled labor and inspire students has prompted local lawmakers and business leaders to take notice. Businesses have offered to recruit some of the students and this week, the Saipan delegation of the CNMI House approved legislation giving $100,000 to the school, money that will aid Pellegrino's plans to revamp an old 3,500 square foot garment warehouse in Lower Base—obtained through a government lease—into a new hands-on practice site for the school's curriculum.

Pellegrino has offered to let students work to get the site into shape in exchange for tuition breaks. The new building is expected to open in November.

'GOLDEN TICKETS'

Ryan Paras, right, and Santiago Babauta, smile for the camera with the movie tickets they won in Coca-Cola's Golden Ticket Giveaway promo. They are joined by 10-year-old Phillip, Babauta's son, who's holding Babauta's younger son, 3-year-old Jacob. The two claimed their prizes at the Coca-Cola office on Aug. 6. ***See story on Page 15.***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Glennise M. Ada holds the five movie passes she won in Coca-Cola's Golden Ticket Giveaway promo. ***See story on Page 15.***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FULL

From Page 1

ity for Saipan. The island is suffering constant blackouts due to the poor conditions of its power plant. Fitial declared a state of emergency for CUC Aug. 1, stating that one of Power Plant 1's engines is "so damaged by wear and lack of adequate maintenance for many years that it may experience a catastrophic failure."

The Aggreko generators will be shipped in four installments. The first should arrive Aug. 23. Three installments will follow on Aug. 30, Sept. 6 and Sept. 14, Charles Reyes, Jr., press secretary for the Governor's Office said.

The generators should provide for 24-hour power to the entire island starting Sept. 16.

There were many hurdles that had to be crossed to pave the way for the Aggreko deal.

In July, a law was passed allowing CUC to receive $3.4 million of the Marianas Public Land Trust's income for the next two fiscal years.

CUC used $1.5 million of that money to pay the down payment of the $6 million Aggreko contract. Aggreko had said they would not ship the generators without receiving the down payment.

Fitial passed a law at the beginning of August exempting emergency power contracts from review by the Public Utilities Commission. The move cleared the last obstacle to obtaining the power.

"We worked to get this done in a legal way," Reyes said. "We identified and worked with lawyers and lawmakers from the legislature. We addressed the problem and identified a solution."

Steve Dunlap, representative from Aggreko, said the company has been in a state of preparation and readiness.

"We understood the situation and the need for a fast response, so that when the funds came through we were ready to go," he said.

The equipment is too large to fit into one vessel so it is being shipped separately, Dunlap said. The first shipment has already left Singapore, he added.

Muna said the generators' arrival is not only a relief to the public but to the CUC maintenance staff as well.

"Since Oct 1, 2007, maintenance staff hours have been irregular and many times going beyond the usual workday through late in the evening and at times into the early morning," he said.

Reyes said he does not anticipate the public's monthly utility rates to increase as long as fuel rates remain steady.

Other members attending Thursday's meeting were Senate President Pete Reyes, House Speaker Arnold Palacios and Secretary of Finance Eloy Inos.

NMI

From Page 1

The emergency declaration caught some lawmakers by surprise.

Sen. Paul Manglona, who chairs the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Commission, expressed concern with the state of emergency. According to him, the executive order was signed Aug. 1 but he only became aware of it yesterday.

Manglona questioned whether there are other contracts being signed using this declaration of emergency.

Fitial declared the state of disaster under Executive Order 2008-10, signed on Aug. 1. The Legislature received the executive order only yesterday, a lawmaker told *Saipan Tribune*.

In the four-page order, the governor cited CUC's inability to provide critical power generation service to the CNMI and the apparent "extreme, immediate threat such condition poses to the Commonwealth." Fitial said that Power Plant 1's engines are unable to provide power necessary to meet the basic needs of Saipan.

He said one or more of the engines is so damaged by wear and lack of adequate maintenance for many years that it may experience a catastrophic failure.

"The condition of the engines is so bad that the technical experts at the plant cannot predict precisely the time of failure. But they do predict such a catastrophic failure," Fitial said.

The chief executive said if one or more of Power Plant 1's engines fails, Saipan "will experience massive blackouts even more extensive that the present load-shedding which Saipan residents have been experiencing for the past months."

CUC's ability to generate electricity, Fitial said, could be so compromised that the island could experience a complete shutdown of its power generation system.

The effect of such failure, Fitial said, include the following:

- CUC will be without power to pump and purify water.
- CUC will be unable to pump or treat sewage.
- Street lights and traffic lights would go offline.
- The Commonwealth Health Center and medical clinic would be without CUC power, dependent on their limited diesel oil supplies and on-site generators.
- Communications media would go offline, including MCV cable TV and radio stations, which do not have their own fuel supplies and generation.
- Schools, homes, and work places will be subject to blackouts.
- The very young, the ill and the elderly who are dependent on refrigeration for food and medicine will be without power.

Under the declaration, directive 1 suspends CUC's Procurement Regulations and the CNMI Procurement Regulations applicable to CUC, except that the utility agency "must fully document all procurement activity for Executive, Public Auditor and Legislative review."

The second directive suspends the Commonwealth Public Utility Commission Act of 2006, in so far as it would require the presentation of CUC procurement information, including contracts and other measures relating to the supply of power or the operation and maintenance of CUC's generation, for PUC review.

The third directive empowers CUC to execute the wholesale generation power contract it has negotiated with an independent power producer for a period of two years or less.

Manglona noted that the declaration was issued just shortly after the Legislature passed a bill that subsequently became Public Law 16-9.

Manglona said he and Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan introduced that legislation to accommodate the emergency power generation contract that CUC is trying to initiate with Agrekko International.

"We amended the Public Utility Commission Act to remove some of the requirements such as certificate for convenience," he pointed out. "And then to find out that there is a declaration of disaster emergency, we don't actually need that law then."

The Rota senator said CUC and the administration should be more transparent in dealing with CUC procurements.

"To have the declaration of state of emergency at the time when even the Legislature was cooperating, we were pretty much bending backwards to solve this CUC emergency situation when people are having to face hours of power outages at night and during the day," Manglona said.

More workers leaving the CNMI than arriving

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

There are more foreign workers leaving the CNMI than those who are arriving, according to statistics from the CNMI Division of Labor.

Based on the lists in its website (www.marianaslabor.net), the number of those who were scheduled for departure in July 2008 alone reached 380 while those listed in the arrival column numbered 50.

There are no available records yet for the month of August.

Nonresident workers in CNMI are mostly from China, Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines.

The Government Accountability Office issued early this month a report on the prospective impact of the pending federal takeover of local immigration and foreign labor rules, a move that drew strong criticisms from no less than the administration of Gov. Benigno Fitial.

Congress has capped the number of foreign workers in the CNMI at 22,000.

Meanwhile, the Immigration Office has been implementing new procedures on accepting newly hired nonresident workers.

Immigration officials will take the passport and entry document right there at the airport, a new policy which they said is part of the ongoing federalization scheme.

The passport and entry document will be given back to the worker after undergoing a 30-minute or so orientation about labor and immigration rules as well as their rights and privileges as nonresident workers in the CNMI.

'New rules on projects in protected areas will save cost'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources believes relaxing the rules on protected species to give way for development programs and projects as being pushed by the Bush administration will save a lot of money.

However, DLNR Secretary Ignacio de la Cruz expects oppositions from some members of the U.S. Congress as well as protests from conservationists.

"There will be lawsuits to come," de la Cruz said when asked to comment on the issue that would soon give federal agencies the freedom to decide for themselves whether highways, dams, mines and other construction projects might harm endangered animals and plants.

De la Cruz said the current system is more costly because of the lengthy procedures that usually delay implementation of such projects.

The new policy being proposed by the Bush administration, DLNR said, will ease some of the requirements.

He said the federal government would make sure that such projects would not endanger the habitats because they will also be required to go through the usual process.

There are currently 11 endangered or threatened species in the CNMI: eight animals and three plants.

The endangered animal species are Micronesian megapode, hawksbill turtle, leatherback turtle, nightingale reed warbler and the Rota bridled white eye while the threatened animal species are the Mariana fruit bat or the so-called flying fox, green sea turtle and the loggerhead turtle.

The three endangered plant species are the *Sarianthes nelsoni, Nesogenes rotensis* and *Osmoxylon marianense.*

Associated Press reports on Wednesday pointed out that new regulations, which don't require the approval of Congress, would reduce the mandatory, independent reviews government scientists have been performing for 35 years.

The draft rules would bar federal agencies from assessing the emissions from projects that contribute to global warming and its effect on species and habitats.

De la Cruz is anticipating stiff opposition from the U.S. Congress, which he said would not just let the federal government implement the new policy without going through scrutiny from them.

AP wrote that if approved, the new policy or changes to the existing rules would represent the biggest overhaul of the Endangered Species Act since 1988. "They would accomplish through regulations what conservative Republicans have been unable to achieve in Congress: ending some environmental reviews that developers and other federal agencies blame for delays and cost increases on many projects."

Such changes, AP said, would apply to any project a federal agency would fund, build or authorize with government wildlife experts currently perform tens of thousands of such reviews each year.

Under current law, federal agencies must consult with experts at the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service to determine whether a project is likely to jeopardize any endangered species or to damage habitat, even if no harm seems likely.

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JROTC cadets undergo leadership course

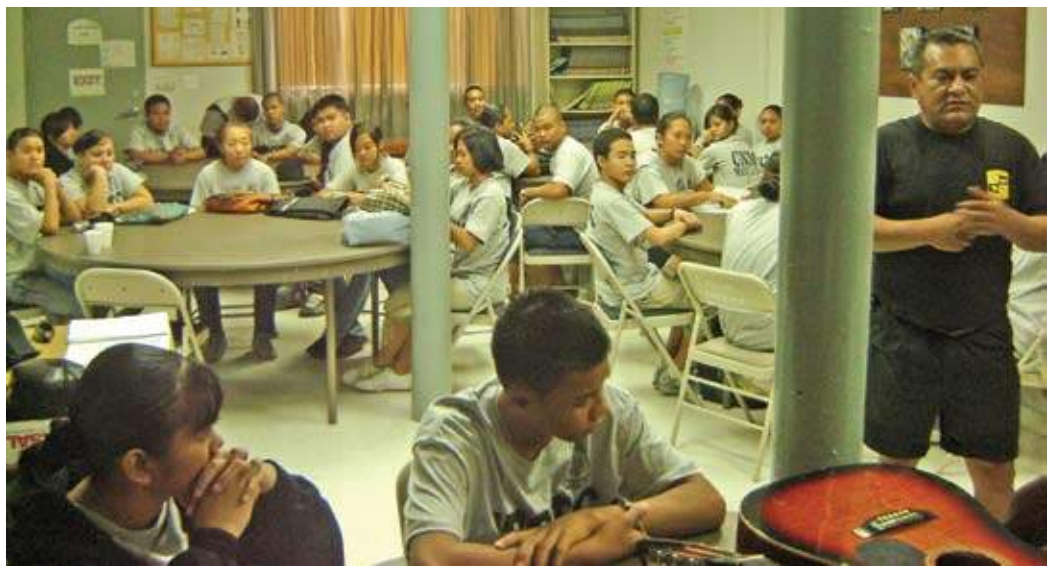
The Multiple School Unit JROTC recently conducted a weeklong summer leadership symposium at Marianas High School.

All five JROTC high schools in the CNMI participated in the symposium, which took place between Aug. 4 and Aug. 8. The federal government underwrote the program's $8,000 total cost. This included airline tickets, ferry tickets, hotel accommodations and food for the cadets, cadre and chaperones. Each school brought its top 10 cadet leaders for the upcoming school year.

Lt. Col. Gay, director of Army Instruction, developed the course in consultation with the JROTC Cadre to better prepare the cadet leaders for their future assignments.

Cadets learned to work together with cadet members of other schools, in an unfamiliar environment, solving problems in a collaborative process. Cadets were assigned to "Learning PODS" based on their functional positions within the battalion. JROTC instructors were assigned as facilitators and mentors for each Learning POD. Team members remained together for the first three days of training.

The program's first two days consisted of cadets learning the responsibilities of their leader and staff positions, a review of cadet tasks, inspection checklists, JROTC Leadership Education and Training Curriculum LET1 - LET4, orientation to JUMS, producing requisite JUMS automated reports, inputting data, service learning process, developing memoranda and operations orders, preparing a 250-word paper on the leadership principles of General George C. Marshall, a 250-word paper on each cadet's personal biography and briefing the biography to their Learning Pod Members.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JROTC cadets undergo leadership training at Marianas High School.

The symposium's third day consisted of further refinement of written assignments, reviewing the entire spectrum of LET1 - LET4 General Curriculum Questions and In-Ranks Inspection questions. In the afternoon, the learning PODS competed against each other in a fast-paced CPS Academic Challenge.

On Thursday, the cadets assembled by school and prepared their staff briefings. This allowed the cadets to review and modify their own school briefings and to practice their oral presentations for the next morning.

On the symposium's final day, each school's cadets presented their Formal Cadet Staff Briefings to the entire cadet audience and cadre. All participants were commended for their briefings by Gay, Tanya King, and all five of their Senior Army instructors.

This summer leadership challenge will take place annually to help students prepare for their futures as community leaders. ***(PR)***

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Barry Wonenberg creating two sculptures in China

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Athletes aren't the only people striving for perfection in China right now.

Barry Wonenberg, an art instructor at Northern Marianas College, has been spending his days working on two sculptures as part of the 9th International Sculpture Symposium.

Maggie Wonenberg, Barry's wife, said he was initially going to work on a 10-foot tall steel sculpture, but when he arrived in China, he was told he could also work on a bronze sculpture.

Once the artist has designed the sculpture, the studio designates assistants to build the piece, Maggie said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Barry Wonenberg works on a block profile.

Artists from around the world were invited to submit sculpture proposals representing the national and local cultures of their countries.

Approximately 45 artists are taking part in the Symposium. Some of the countries represented include Niger, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine, Vatican City, Aruba, Guam and New Caledonia.

"I am happy to be given this opportunity. It is gratifying to have my abilities recognized," Barry Wonenberg said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune* before he left for China. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me and for the CNMI islands as a whole. I am honored to have been selected to represent our islands and create one of my sculptures for the symposium."

All of the artists stay in the same hotel and eat together, Maggie said. During the day they spend their time working on their creations in the studio.

Maggie said media from China are regularly going to the studio to interview the artists.

The symposium runs through Sept. 5. After that the artwork will be put on display at the Changchun World Sculpture Park in Changchun, China, considered the largest sculpture park in the world.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sculptors from different countries pose at the park.

As one of the selected artist, Wonenberg received the all-expense-paid trip that includes a round-trip ticket to China, a $2,000 honorarium, hotel accommodations, meals, sightseeing tours and other activities.

Wonenberg will be back to teach classes at NMC this school year, Maggie said.

BEH issues grades of Saipan establishments

The Bureau of Environmental Health conducted sanitary inspections, during the month of July 2008 on the following retails, eating and drinking establishments and their grades are as follow:

Grade "A"

1. Taste of India, Chalan Lau Lau
2. Smile Store, San Antonio
3. S.T.C. Catering, Chalan Kanoa
4. Coral Reef Club, Susupe
5. Dae Ha Restaurant, Garapan
6. Mr. Wonderful Club, As Lito
7. Korea House Restaurant, Susupe
8. New Asakusa Karaoke Club, Garapan
9. Happy Noni Restaurant, Garapan
10. Mini Stop, Garapan
11. Mama Store, Garapan
12. Subway Restaurant, Gualo Rai
13. Kinpachi Restaurant, Garapan
14. Touch Down Snack Bar, Airport
15. Kiosk Shop-Palm Resort, San Roque
16. Nang O'Cha Store, San Vicente
17. Buoy Bar, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
18. Charley Disco Bar, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
19. PIC Coffee Shop, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
20. PIC Pool Bar, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
21. PIC Ice Cream Parlor, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
22. PIC Seaside Grill, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
23. Minami Kaze Catering, Capital Hill
24. Sunny Café, San Antonio
25. Double Restaurant, Garapan
26. Cerry Store, Koblerville
27. Ador Restaurant, San Antonio
28. New Fina Sisu Mini Mart, Fina Sisu
29. Bobby's Cadillac Rest. & Bar, Garapan
30. Mangkok Catering, San Antonio
31. KB Market, Koblerville
32. Lucky R Catering, Chalan Kiya
33. J. Wong & Son's Wholesale, San Antonio
34. New Clara Market, Kanat Tabla
35. Harmony Music Box, Garapan
36. Umibouzu Japanese Restaurant

Grade "B"

1. Sun Leader Market & Butcher, Garapan
2. Sun Leader Super Market, San Antonio
3. Fujitaya Nikko Ken Restaurant, Garapan
4. Assa Karaoke, Chalan Kanoa
5. MC-Asia Int'l Wholesale, Gualo Rai
6. HI Mart, Dan Dan
7. Magellan Restaurant, PIC Hotel, San Antonio
8. Well Jin Store, San Antonio
9. Tori Hide Restaurant, Garapan

Grade "C"

None

Establishments ordered closed due to serious violations of Health and Sanitation Standards

1. Crystal Water Manufacture, Papago *9/19/07
2. AAX 939 (Bolin Xue)-Illegal roadside *11/05/07
3. ABY 048 *11/05/07
4. Jin Joo Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa *12/19/07
5. Island Medical Center (IMC), Susupe *2/28/08
6. Domo Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa *5/28/08 **7/10/08
7. ACE 872 (Li Bo Xing)-illegal roadside *6/20/08
8. Johnny's Bar & Grill, Garapan *6/30/08 **7/03/08
9. Hollywood Coffee Shop, Garapan *7/01/08 **7/11/08
10. ABA 380 (Xu Jin Luan)-illegal roadside vendor *7/10/08
11. Happy Hour Karaoke, Chalan Kanoa *7/10/08 **7/23/08

Note: *(facility closure date) **(establishment re-opening date) There may have been changes to these grades since this information was released. For update information, call the Bureau of Environmental Health at 664-4870 or fax 664-4871. ***(PR)***

Opposition to funding bill saddens Reyes

Senate President Pete Reyes said he was saddened with Rep. Tina Sablan's opposition to the passage of a bill that would allocate $4.8 million in projected poker fee revenue to several programs and projects.

"It's sad that one member of [the Legislature] is going to vote no on all these programs for our young people," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*. "I can't believe anyone would vote against something this good."

Reyes

Sablan

He said that, when the time comes, lawmakers will have to justify why they choose to act a certain way on issues.

Except for Sablan, Saipan lawmakers voted on Wednesday to pass the $4.8 million funding bill.

Sablan had expressed disappointment with the legislators' action. She questioned, among other things, the need to construct another baseball field on Navy Hill when it is such a small village and there is already a baseball field in the area.

Reyes said part of the appropriation under the legislation would go to the scholarship funds.

"I'm not going to hesitate to say that I support the bill. Scholarship has been a very high priority for me. As you know I donate all my salary to scholarship," he pointed out.

Citing a *Saipan Tribune* article on the, Reyes said there is a growing population of students who are availing of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance.

"Rather than reduce the program, we should increase it and that's what we did. We increased it by $100,000," he said.

On the baseball field issue, Reyes said drug use in the Commonwealth is a very common thing for the youth.

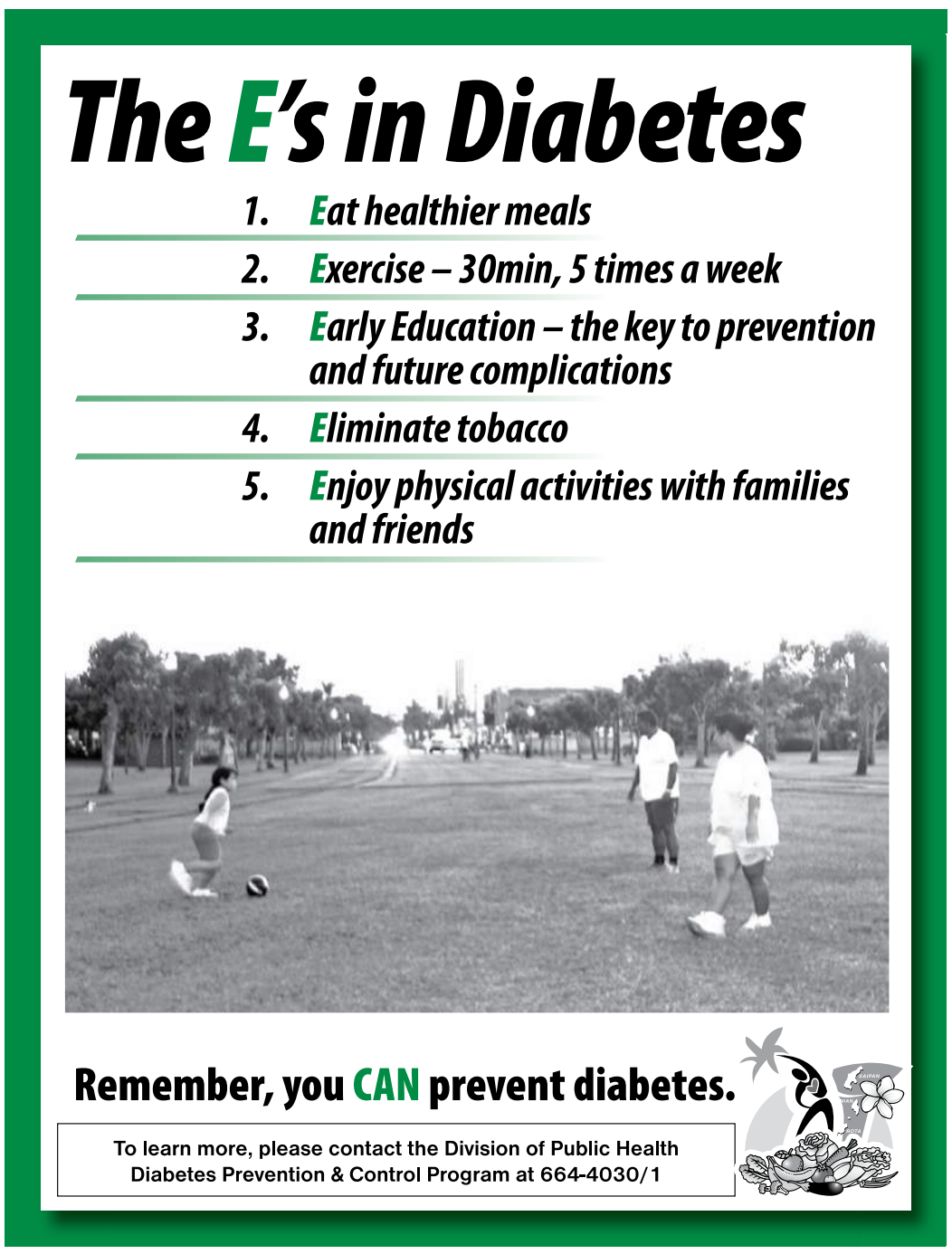
"We need to appropriate money to provide as many as we can afford sports facilities for our young people. The baseball field is one," he said.

The senator said if there is a need to construct two or three baseball fields on Navy Hill he would support it.

"The reason is we need to keep our young people occupied. We need to keep them in sports activities rather than roaming the streets because that invites criminality and the use of drugs," Reyes said.

On the fishing derby issue, the Senate president said the event attracts many fishermen to a competition somewhat similar to any sports activity.

"In the same manner that we want to build as many basketball courts and baseball fields, we need to also promote fishing and agriculture. We need to have many farmers as we can," he added. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 15, 2000

Funds to fight int'l. crimes still in limbo

It is not certain yet whether the Department of Public Safety stands to receive additional funding for FY 2001 to combat what it says as an increase in international crimes in the CNMI.

The House Ways and Means Committee will still need to identify other funding sources for the police than what has been made available under the governor's budget proposal for the next fiscal year, according to its chairman.

Stiffer penalties vs. illegal water, power connections

The House of Representatives yesterday passed legislation seeking to impose fines against illegal tapping of power and water services in a move to stop the practice that has robbed the government hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues every year.

Sponsored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, the measure also calls for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to install metering devices on all its customers, including private well owners, in order to monitor their consumption.

CUC's $100-M hinders Saipan power project

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials yesterday asked lawmakers for a bailout package that will help free the government-owned corporation from paying over $100 million debt it owed to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

The move is needed to expedite construction of the new 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan since such debt elimination is one of the conditions set out by CUC's power consultants to lessen its financial risks.

August 15, 2001

Classroom shortage looms Student-teacher ratio in public schools to reach 30-1

Public elementary school principals yesterday raised concerns about a possible classroom shortage and a significantly high student-teacher ratio as enrollment figures soared this academic year.

Initial registration tally showed that more than 4,600 students have enrolled in various public elementary schools on Saipan. The number is expected to increase in the coming days as registration continues.

Officials urged to assess effects of Bush's tax cuts

A ranking official of the Bush administration yesterday said the implementation of tax cuts in the United States may have an impact on federal grants in Pacific territories, as negotiations loom for a new round of US-CNMI Covenant funds.

David Heggestad, director of the Office of Insular Affairs' Budget and Grants Management, also said he favors a continued implementation of the matching requirement for Capital Improvement Projects for the new agreement.

"I think there's a legitimate point. The tax cuts can have an impact here," Heggestad told the Saipan Tribune, reacting to a statement of former OIA director Ferdinand Aranza.

Panel to renegotiate CIP funding sought

Senate President Paul Manglona yesterday urged the early creation of the panel that would renegotiate with the US government the terms outlined under Section 702 of the Commonwealth Covenant, saying this will give the CNMI enough time to come up with a position on the issue.

He stressed that the need to create the panel is even more urgent now, considering that the multi-year funding provided by the US government under Section 702 is set to end by 2002.

August 15, 2002

Body's identity known Saturday Guam-based pathologist to perform autopsy

Authorities would not confirm if the human remains found Monday in Kagman III was that of missing tour coordinator Chiharu Umeyama pending the results of an autopsy that will be done on Saturday.

Acting Public Safety spokesperson Thomas A. Blas Jr. reported yesterday that investigators have recovered clothing and pieces of jewelry at the crime scene. The items recovered could shed light on the real identity of the decaying human remains.

FEMA signs off $1.7M aid for Rota

Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Federal Emergency Management Agency signed yesterday afternoon the agreement that would provide at least $1.7 million for the rehabilitation of Rota Island.

This comes 41 days after Typhoon Chata'an hit Rota and Guam on July 4 this year and just eight days after President Bush declared Rota a disaster area.

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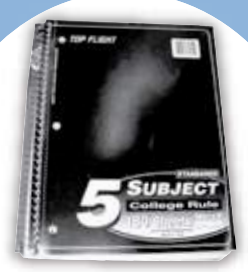

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69¢

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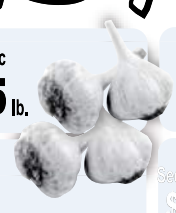

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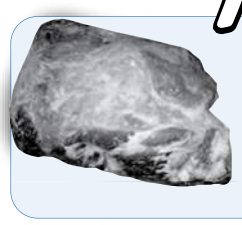

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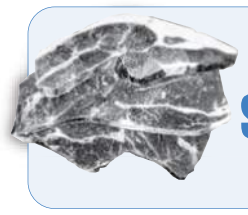
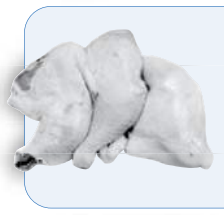


New Zealand Shoulder Steak Family Bag 8lb.
$15.99 /bg.



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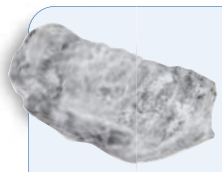

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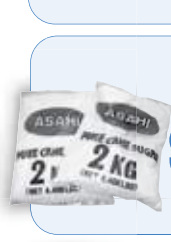

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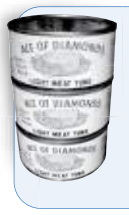

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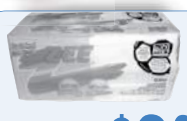

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Message from Moscow

The conflict between Russia and Georgia that started as a regional spat over a pair of breakaway republics is looking increasingly like an all-out invasion, and perhaps even the start of a Russian drive to begin rebuilding the old, dismantled Soviet empire. Some are calling on the United States and NATO for a strong, perhaps military, response. What these hawks seem to have forgotten is that their beaks and talons are as sharp as marbles.

With the U.S. thoroughly bogged down in Iraq and Afghanistan, and NATO anchored by complacent Western European countries that believe the threat from Russia ended with the Cold War, a military response is out of the question. At the United Nations, meanwhile, the Security Council has held five emergency sessions on the Georgia-Russia conflict in as many days, even though with Russia as a veto-wielding member, there is no chance of strong U.N. reprisals.

No one should have been taken by surprise by the latest turn of events in South Ossetia, where tensions have been steadily escalating in recent months. Justifiably or not, Russia's leaders feel deeply threatened by the newly independent, pro-Western regimes, such as Georgia and Ukraine, on its borders. NATO's signals that it might eventually welcome these countries as members has only worsened Moscow's paranoia, but the real catalyst of the current violence may have been Kosovo's declaration of independence, with U.S. and European backing, in February. The Kremlin has long insisted on parallels between Kosovo, a breakaway republic of Serbia, and the two provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, breakaway republics of Georgia. Kosovo's move left Moscow waiting for an excuse to enforce that notion with tanks, and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili seems to have provided it on Thursday when he sent troops to South Ossetia.

Western diplomats have rightly heaped scorn on Russia for escalating the conflict far beyond the borders of South Ossetia, but they have no one but themselves to blame for their inability to do anything else. The U.S., believing Russia to still be the weak, demoralized country it was in the 1990s, has largely ignored Moscow's warnings against building a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe or expanding NATO. Western Europe has been neglecting its defense spending for years, believing itself to be secure under a 21st century Pax Americana. The Kremlin, meanwhile, has used billions in oil and gas revenues to rebuild Russia's military, even as its rule under former president and current Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin has become increasingly autocratic.

It will be a tragedy if Georgia, a fast-growing, pro-Western democracy that was flowering under Saakashvili, falls once again under the Russian boot. Yet matters could get even worse if the West's diplomats—and generals—don't take the conflict as a sign that they must take the rising threat from Moscow more seriously.

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IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN AVOID THE DEATH PENALTY?
EAT MORE CHEESEBURGERS.
BUN IN RUN
OHIO INMATE CLAIMS HE'S TOO FAT TO EXECUTE

A great piece of gear

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If you're a savvy traveler (enjoy it while Saipan still has any airline service left) then you've learned to live out of a single "rollaway" suitcase that qualifies as a carry-on bag. In addition to that bag, most airlines allow you one other "personal" item, such as a briefcase or purse; this is the provision we use to tote our notebook computers. Well, on that note, after all these years on the road, I finally have a recommendation in this realm. So read on, Commonwealth Road Warriors, your travel-weary comrade has discovered a dandy piece of gear.

It's been a tough quest. I've been tormented by the elusive goal of finding a notebook computer case that could do additional duty by holding some other stuff. Enough stuff, in fact, to serve on its own as an overnight bag for short excursions while on the road. I wanted the case to also fill the briefcase role, able to carry Manila folders, pens, a calculator, and business cards. The constraint, of course, is that such a bag would have to remain small enough, and have a strong enough form factor of "briefcase," to still pass muster as a "personal" item.

That's a tall order.

So over the years I've spent a fortune trying to find just the right thing. Stores never had anything close. So I blundered from one Internet pitfall to the next, buying cases that looked good on web sites, but that sucked irredeemably. Not wanting to pay the return postage, I'd simply give these bags away.

So over the years I've spent a fortune trying to find just the right thing. Stores never had anything close. So I blundered from one Internet pitfall to the next, buying cases that looked good on web sites, but that sucked irredeemably. Not wanting to pay the return postage, I'd simply give these bags away.

Overall, good luggage is very difficult to buy, and the demands of this particular mission seemed impossible.

Those of you with a preppy streak will be familiar with the stalwart canvas attaches sold by Lands End. Lands End has updated the concept for notebook computer use. I almost went this route, but I found something that is (for me, at least) more useful from a business called Cabela's.

I first heard of Cabela's from a helicopter pilot at Coral Ocean Point, who was always well-outfitted for adventurous excursions to the Northern Islands. Cabela's is a serious outfitter, frequented by professional adventurers, big game hunters, and so on. It's accessible to normal folk as well, with a growing chain of huge retail stores in the mainland, and a global client base via its catalog and Internet presence.

And thus I introduce a really great piece of gear, the Cabela's Outback Series Computer Attache. It is made of olive-green canvas and is trimmed with leather. It holds my computer, the power brick, my digital camera, my dozen other electronic doodads (alarm clock, SD card reader, mini-USB cable, flash drives, spare batteries, financial calculator, flashlight, cell phone, etc.), my shaving kit, one entire set of tightly rolled casual clothes (trousers, shirt, etc.), a book or two, and it also carries files, pens, and such in a handy organizer-thingy. Whew. That's a lot of stuff.

It also has a padded computer sleeve, but I'm too stingy with space to use it.

This bag is serving me admirably. It's well-built and masterfully designed. If you arrange the main zippers right, you can fit a small travel padlock through all of them; sure, that's not Fort Knox, but it's better than nothing. The bag is well-arrayed for carrying a passport and that kind of travel stuff. Also, it meets the critical criterion of being able to sit atop your rollaway suitcase as you pull it along, thanks to a slide-through flap that snugs around the suitcase handle.

I prefer plain black luggage, which matches my plain and bland personality. So, alas, the green and nubuck leather tones of this attache are far sportier than I'd really like. (Cabela's does have a somewhat similar model in black, but it wasn't similar enough for me.)

Anyway, the $79.99 price for my bag was easily worth it, especially considering the endless stream of useless $30 specials I was throwing my money away on.

For sake of comparison, I'll note that Lands End's canvas computer attache is $99.95, and it is, incidentally, available in black. Using the manufacturers' dimensions as a basis for my figuring, I calculated that the Cabela's bag has 32 percent more volume than the Lands End offering.

If you don't travel often this may not seem like a big deal. But Saipan has a lot of professionals jetting to Asia and beyond, and many would find this item of use. This is one great piece of gear.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Another option to address budget shortfall

A recent article in the *Saipan Tribune* mulled ways to close the $19 million revenue shortfall in next year's budget. A few options identified thus far are "austerity" Fridays, unpaid holidays, and/or doubling the cost of a business license.

Please allow me to offer another alternative, an alternative that would redefine the CNMI as a leader in ocean conservation, lead to increased federal funding, more research and education dollars flowing to our shores, a much needed boost in tourism.

University of Guam professor Tom Iverson, a fellow educator who has been living and working in Micronesia for over 20 years, recently authored an economic study on the economic impart of a proposed Mariana Trench Marine National Monument.

The report is long and is available online, but to break it down into simple bullet points, the economic benefits of a monument would likely be:

- An increase in federal spending to manage the monument and staff the visitor's center;
- an increase in tourism from the free media exposure surrounding the declaration and subsequent discoveries, expeditions, etc.; and
- an increase in the amount of research, with possible high-end tourism.

Iverson predicts that the first year's direct spending will be somewhere in the neighborhood of $10 million with tax revenues of approximately $5 million. Furthermore, his best estimate is that around 400 jobs will be created, which could help phase government workers into the private sector, allowing for cuts in the government's budget.

Will this be enough to meet the shortfall? Probably not, but combined with our fiscal measures it could help make the fall a lot softer.

Agnes McPhetres
San Vicente, Saipan

Stop sole-sourcing nonsense!

Dear brothers and sisters of the Commonwealth:

Governor Fitial is declaring a state of emergency for CUC and will suspend all procurement procedures, the roles and responsibilities of PUC, and most importantly, he will sole source power generation for CUC!

I quote this from Governor Fitial's declaration, "By this declaration I intend to enable CUC, within the definitions of PL 16-9, to sign a power contract with the appropriate "person."

The appropriate person? Have we not learned anything from the huge mistakes committed by this administration? DCM? CISCO?

Will you stand by and allow Governor Fitial to sole source another contract, and this time, for power generation for Saipan? Can you trust him to do the right thing? Don't you ever forget! The Fitial administration sole sourced the repair and rehabilitation contracts with DCM and CISCO! Where did that get us? Nowhere! We are experiencing these current blackouts because Governor Fitial endorsed sole source "emergency" contracts instead of properly going through procurement regulations and procedures! We would have 24-hour power right now if we had competent contractors repairing and rehabilitating our engines! Instead, we are paying the highest utility rates in the nation and are experiencing more blackouts than ever in the history of the Commonwealth! How much more are you willing to take?

I have done my very best to rally our people to stand up and fight for the very survival of our islands. If you are not willing to read this and stand up against this tyranny, then all is lost. Mark my words. Allowing Governor Fitial to sole source a power generation contract to the appropriate "person" will be the final nail in our coffin.

We cannot allow this to happen! The time to organize and fill the House and Senate is now! We must pressure the House and Senate to fight this tyranny and this evil attempt to sole-source power generation! You think DCM and CISCO was a bad deal? They are nothing compared to this! This is another attempt at giving a sweetheart contract which will be good for the contractor but bad for us!

You cannot expect a handful of people to make a difference. We must have 1,000 voters ready and willing to assemble on Capital Hill and demand the House and Senate to fight this declaration of dictatorship immediately! We must be willing to demand that Governor Fitial stop this sole-sourcing nonsense, which is rotten to the core and has plagued our islands for far too long! We must be willing to demand that any power generation contract must go through the proper channels and that all procurement regulations be strictly followed, with the OPA watching every step of the way!

Make no mistake about it. If you sit by and allow this to happen, you will not be the only one who will regret it. Your children and my children will suffer the consequences. We have the power to bring much-needed change to the CNMI, but it cannot happen with only a handful of people! You must be the one to come forward and fight for justice! You must be willing to risk your government job for the greater glory of getting the CNMI back on the right track!

Many of us have offered solutions to our current power crisis, but it continues to fall on deaf ears with this administration. They will not listen to 10 people, but do you honestly think they will ignore 1,000 strong voters and citizens of the CNMI?! We have the power and must remind our leaders that they represent all of us, and not just the special few!

I am asking for 1,000 brave CNMI citizens to organize immediately and fight this attempt at sole sourcing power generation! Are you willing to fight? Are you willing to stop this atrocity from taking place? If you are fed up and ready to put real pressure on our leaders, e-mail me at edpropst@gmail.com or call me at 483-7361. Let us end the evil sinful old ways of doing business here in the CNMI.

Change begins with you. Will you be a part of the solution or will you be a part of the status quo? The choice is yours.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Clarification

Please allow me to respond to Mr. John Davis' letter to the editor dated Aug. 12, 2008, that came out in the *Marianas Variety* titled "Somewhat amusing".

It was never my intention to suggest or insinuate that anyone who is indigenous or respects the culture of this community will automatically win any office in any election. Rather my letter was intended to give appreciation to Ms. Lynn Knight for her admiration of our indigenous culture and values. Nothing more and nothing less.

I would also like to set the record straight that I believe anyone—regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or culture—should be able to run for any public office and represent our community for I do understand that we live in a multicultural America. I also believe that the most qualified individual and the one who possesses the traits of honesty, courage and integrity should be the one we send to Washington, D.C. I have a very clear idea of what can be accomplish in office but more than that I have a very clear vision of what should be accomplished for the entire CNMI.

David M. Cing
Tinian

It's not me!

I want to clarify what appeared on the *Saipan Tribune* in the Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008 issue, page 2 under "VOICES". Several individuals have asked me about the comment made by an Angie of Fina Sisu. I just want to let your readers know that I, known as Angie who lives in Fina Sisu, did not make that comment and have not spoken to any reporter. May I suggest that you obtain the person's last name in the future if they want to be quoted on any issue. Thank you.

Angie V. De Leon Guerrero (Apa)
Fina Sisu, Saipan

New office for the indigenous

A new office for the indigenous community will soon be opening its doors. It will be located in San Antonio inside the Sablan Complex building, below the Department of Labor & Immigration. This new office will be called Office of the CNMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights. The Indigenous people here in the CNMI should be very proud that such an office will be opened for the first time in CNMI history. This is the time now to join hands with one another for the success and prosperity of everyone's life now and the future.

Martin M. Sakisat
Saipan

Nuclear power redux

This is the company that I have introduced to Tinian leadership as the potential first installment of such a power generator. We have been talking to them for over a year and are currently developing a formal proposal. The announcement below indicates just what this is all about. The question now is, will our leaders in the NMI at least look further at this option instead of continuing to ignore it as a feasible alternative for the NMI?

It can be installed in less than three years and result in a cost per kWh to the consumer of between 7 and 10 cents. There are many investment companies that will finance the project and run it as a private entity and sell the power to the NMI at a very small cost. I have previously written about the various aspects of safety, cost, environmental concerns (none) and viability of such units. Now is the time to act!

Hyperion power generation lands initial set of customers for the HPM small, safe, transportable nuclear power reactor

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Aug 11, 2008 (Business Wire)—Hyperion Power Generation's CEO, John R. "Grizz" Deal, announced today that the company has received its first Letter of Intent to purchase the Hyperion Power Module (TM) (HPM), a small, compact, transportable, nuclear power reactor. http://www.HyperionPowerGeneration.com

The intention to purchase up to six units for various projects, at approximately $25 million each, was placed by TES Group, an investment company focusing on the energy sector in Central Eastern Europe. If successful, they could potentially be in the market for up to 50 HPMs. Each power module provides 27 megawatts of electricity when connected to a steam turbine, enough to provide electricity for 20,000 average-size American-style homes or the industrial equivalent.

"The Hyperion Power Module was originally conceived to provide clean, affordable power for remote industrial applications such as oil sands operations," said Deal. "Yet, the initial enthusiasm has been from those needing reliable electricity for communities. The big question for the 21st century is, 'how do we provide safe energy to those who need it, indeed those developing nations who demand it, without contributing to climate change?' Today's safer, proliferation-resistant nuclear power technology is the answer, but it's not feasible for every community to be tied to a large nuclear power plant. Some communities, those that need power for just the most basic humanitarian infrastructure, such as clean water production for household use and irrigation, are too remote for conventional nuclear power. This is where the Hyperion Power Module, a safe, secure, transportable power generator can help."

Conceived at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Hyperion Power Module intellectual property portfolio has been licensed to Hyperion Power Generation for commercialization under the laboratory's technology transfer program. Inherently safe and proliferation-resistant, the HPM utilizes the energy of low-enriched uranium fuel in a technology unlike any other currently in use or in development. Approximately 4,000 units of the same design will be produced, sealed and shipped from company manufacturing sites.

More information can be found at: http://www.HyperionPowerGeneration.com.

Dr Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

CIP project?

To Rep. Diego Benavente:

We would like to obtain some information concerning the road project currently taking place at your former residence and family compound. We noticed this while we were investigating other matters and the newly paved road led straight through to a dead end loop where a rooster farm with all your campaign pictures are being used to cover chicken fences or coop.

Can you please give us an idea how much this road project costs? And was there a bidding process that was made?

Can you please explain why the project is called Capital Improvement Project, when we have major road projects that need serious improvements?

We are questioning this matter as there are other private landowners along As Lito and Fina Sisu area that need paving of their family roadways or entrance road.

Also, the government is broke and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation just discussed the issue of more austerity Fridays and holidays.

Your prompt response on the matter will be great appreciated.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

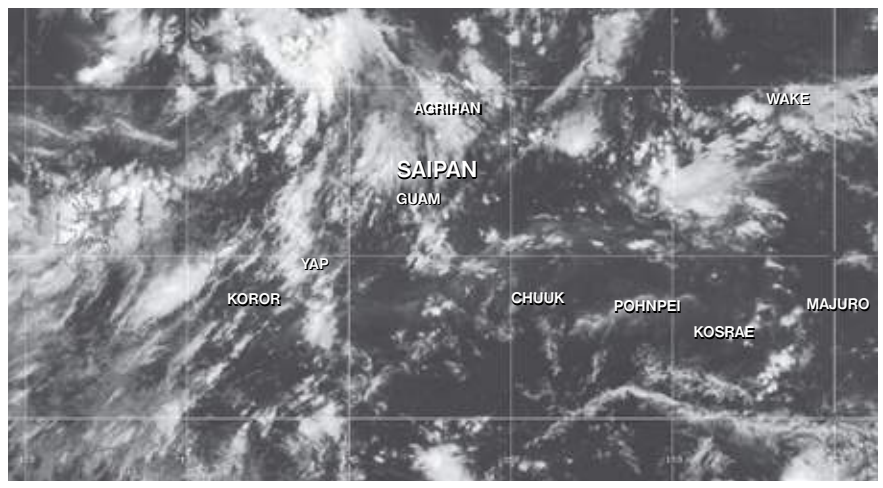
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Mostly CLoudy	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲58	▼47
Beijing	Cloudy	▲86	▼72
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Rain	▲57	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼72
Paris	Showers	▲70	▼55
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼72
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼59
Salem	Hot	▲99	▼57
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼76
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲85	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is located to the southeast of Okinawa near 25N123E and is drifting slowly northward. It is the subject of a JTWC tropical cyclone formation alert (WTPN21 PGTW). Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this system are located within our area north of 21N and west 139E. Continued troughing to the east of this area has helped maintain scattered shower and isolated thunderstorms north of 23N from 144E to 156E to the south of the disturbance and east of Yap and north of the Mariana Islands. Converging southerly winds are helping to create two areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from 10N to 16N between 138E and 142E and also between 15N and 20N from 142E to 147E. Upper-level divergence associated with a weak upper low located near 19N152E is helping converging trade winds within an inverted trough create scattered showers and small pockets of thunderstorms between the upper low and Wake Island from 15N to 21N between 153E and 163E. Further to the east remnants of tropical storm Kika are approaching the dateline near 10N178E and will be monitored for signs of any significant development and weather over the next few days as it moves into our discussion area later tonight west of Palau. Converging southwest monsoonal winds are helping to create an area of primarily scattered showers from the equator to 11N and west of 135E. A widely scattered area of showers and a few thunderstorms is located in the easterly trades between Pohnpei and Kosrae from the equator to 7N between 158E and 169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:45AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:34AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:03PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:03PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:03AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	6:03AM	6:39 PM
Monday	6:03AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	6:03AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:33PM	4:17AM
Saturday	6:14PM	5:10AM
Sunday	6:53PM	6:03AM
Monday	7:31PM	6:55AM
Tuesday	8:09PM	7:47AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Shell Marianas

Marianas Acquisition Corporation, dba Shell Marianas, is seeking a conscientious and reliable individual to fill the position of

Terminal Operator

This position is responsible for working to support the Depot Manager in ensuring compliance with the health, safety, environmental and operational guidelines of the terminal, carrying out the daily terminal operations to include receiving, handling and storing of products, and ensuring the needs of customers are met.

The successful candidate will have positive interpersonal skills, a desire to develop a career with an established organization, and the ability to work diligently to achieve goals. Qualifications include intermediate computer skills, excellent organizational and communication abilities, and some experience in the petroleum industry.

Shell Marianas offers the following compensation and benefits package:

Competitive wages
Medical/Dental insurance
Group Life Insurance
Group Long Term Disability Insurance
Paid Vacation Leave
Paid Sick Leave
Paid Holidays
Employee Discounts
401k Retirement Plan

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit resumes no later than September 1, 2008 to:

Jeff Boyer
Country Chair Representative
Marianas Acquisition Corporation, dba Shell Marianas
Puerto Rico Terminal Office
Saipan MP 96950

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENEFITS SY 2008-2009

The School Breakfast and Lunch Meal Program provide healthy, nutritious meals with all the food components to make a complete meal. A nominal meal of $.50 per breakfast and $.75 pre lunch will be charged at schools participating in the School Meal Program for meals when school reconvenes. This a reduced price made available through federal grants.

Children from families that are below or meet federal guidelines are eligible for one free breakfast meal one free lunch meal everyday as the school is in session. An example of income eligibility using the federal free meal income table is printed below. A household with two children and two adults are considered a household of four persons and thus will qualify if combined monthly income is $2,297.00 or less.

Applications to receive free meals are available at the schools and the PSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) office located on Saipan: 3rd floor, Retirement Building, Capitol Hill; on Tinian: Tinian Elementary School, and Rota: Rota Jr. High School. Parents should fill out an application, provide supporting documents and return it to PSS FNS office or at the school office where their child/children attends if the parents think they may qualify and wishes for their child/children to receive free meals. Application cannot be approved unless a complete application and all supporting documents are submitted. Applications must be submitted every school year regardless if your child/children was/were receiving free meals in the previous years. **Children who received free meals last year have 30 days from the first day of school to submit applications and are eligible for free meals during this 30 day grace period.**

Families whose children are currently receiving assistance from the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) will qualify for the School Meals Program but still need to complete an application yearly. However, please be informed that the PSS – FNS conducts a direct certification with the NAP to ensure your children are in the program. If not all children are receiving food stamp, you must provide income sources (2 recent check stubs, SSI, retirement pension, etc). Completed applications will be processed within ten working days upon receipt. The PSS FNS office will notify you of your application approval or denial. The food services management company vendors will be provided a confidential list of students qualified for free meals.

Applications may be verified of reviewed at any time during the school year. Households receiving free meal benefits must notify PSS FNS office during the school year of any decrease in household size and/or any increase in income over $50 per month or termination of NAP benefits. **Households may apply for free meal benefits any time during the school year as circumstances change such as in cases of unemployment.**

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free meals regardless of household income. If you have such children living with you and you wish to apply for such meals for them, please contact the PSS FNS office.

All applicants who are denied benefits have the right to request a conference to discuss the situation, present information and obtain an explanation of the submitted application or a decision rendered. Applicants may also appeal this decisions by contacting the PSS FNS office.

The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 237-3033/3060/3055/3088 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105 or fax 433-0455, Rota: 237-4046/4047 or fax 532-4020. Please feel free to call us if you would like to get more information on the free meal program.

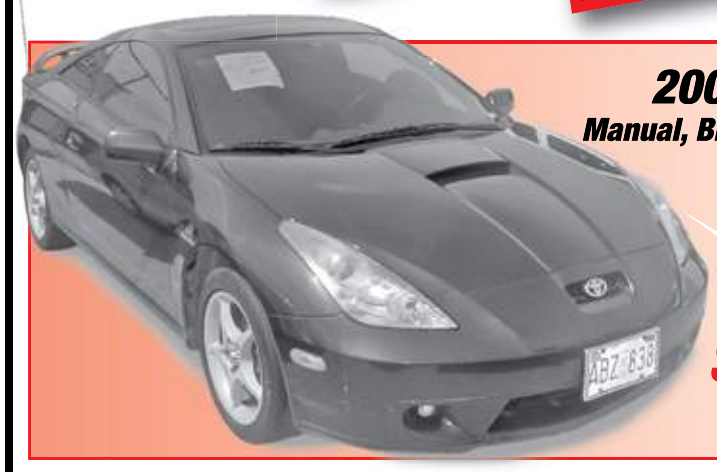
"In the operation of child feeding program, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability

/s/ Craig Garrison
Acting Commissioner of Education

/s/ Dorinda M. Salas
Acting FNS Administrator

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK



2000 CELICA 2DR
Manual, Blue, Stock: U08-043P
License: ABZ838
Mileage: 72097

PRICE $7,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R08-005F	2005	AV-EO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	7,599
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,999~~	10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~12,499~~	11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	7,099
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~14,599~~	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,195~~	19,099

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: **234-5911** | Fax: **234-6514** | **www.microlsaipan.com**

TOYOTA ACDelco

Letters to the Editor

Of street signs and speed bumps

In reference to the reprogramming of lapsed fund from the street naming project, I disagree with it due to several street signs being vandalized or run over by unknown vehicles, and never replaced.

I remember reading an article about our mayor, Juan B. Tudela, saying that the street naming project has not yet been completed at the time but somebody was already destroying the signs or that some street signs were missing before even the project was completed. I agree because in Dandan village alone, lots of street signs are gone, with missing "Stop" signs, speed limit, pedestrian crosswalk, etc.

The intent of the reprogramming was good, but it should have been reprogrammed for the same project to replace all signs that are missing, destroyed or are hard to read due to sign being vandalized; or to paint all crosswalks, especially near bus stops. Schools will be open in less than a month and safety should have been the focal point.

The speed bumps are a good idea (it's a way of saying "slow down"), but again, for safety and vehicles' wear and tear, I think all speed bumps should be painted bright orange or yellow. Believe me, motorists will appreciate that as not all drivers have 20-20 vision. Perhaps, maybe in the not so distant future, all of these issues might be addressed, so help us God.

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

A measure for a congressional delegate's qualifications

As a matter of historical record and documented testimony to David Sablan's integrity and ability to work with members when advising Congress it is worthy of note that in 1986 President Ronald Reagan appointed him as a member of the Commission on Federal Laws and charged the commission with making recommendations to the U.S. Congress as to the applicability of federal laws to the NMI.

Since the NMI delegate elected to Congress will not have a vote on any issue relating to the Commonwealth, the individual occupying the NMI's office in Washington must, of necessity, rely on the power of persuasion to affect a positive outcome on issues beneficial to the people of the islands. It is the only tool the delegate will have and he had better be good at it.

I know of no one better qualified than David M. Sablan to carry out this important task. Should he decide to run for the office—and I for one hope he does but that fact has not yet been made known to me—he is more than capable of making his point to the Commonwealth's advantage with facts and persuasive logic.

Quite simply, "bluff" won't cut it in Congress. If a person is going to occupy the time and attention of their congressional colleagues and get the Commonwealth's point of view across, the delegate must know what he is talking about and do it in a cohesive and comprehensive manner.

David Sablan has the ability to do that while gaining legislative support when and where it's needed—of that I have every confidence.

Friends, it becomes a quiet, sophisticated and astute, "low-key" ability to influence the decisions of congressional committees by not only hoping committee members hear what is being said but more importantly see what is meant when outlining either the adverse or positive impact—whichever the case may be—as related to a particular issue of importance to the Commonwealth. Particularly so during these trying times.

Such a person must be able to foresee the unanticipated, unintended consequence of federal legislation and work to head off any adverse impact upon the island economy and the lives of its residents.

With the deteriorating economic situation on the islands and the sweeping global and regional changes taking place, the NMI delegate to the U.S. Congress will need much more than family connections. He will need wisdom, intelligence, patience, and an overriding concern for the future well-being of the Commonwealth to get the island's back on the road to prosperity.

For those too young to remember and others not present at the time, Dave Sablan is one of the father's of the tourist industry, pioneering the island's first international hotel in 1973—the Pan Am Intercontinental Inn. I know as I made the initial investment prospectus. He is also the single individual who, in 1973, broke the stranglehold of U.S. policy prohibiting foreign investment in the islands as then exercised under the so-called United Nations "favored nation clause" in the Trusteeship Agreement.

One important thing Dave can bring to Congress is an intimate working knowledge based on his experience throughout the Asia-Pacific rim and the contacts that go with it. Not many members in Congress possess that depth of knowledge with the result that Dave can be a real asset, not only to the NMI but to Congress itself.

Also, I have been told that members of Congress value a colleague's word above all else. Trust means everything and one's word is their bond. If David Sablan has one overriding characteristics it's that he is trustworthy. Thus, in the eyes of those in Congress he would represent the very best in the Chamorro and Carolinian character.

So, think about the above as you measure the abilities of each candidate for the position of non-voting delegate to Congress. Even if Dave does not run for the office his abilities should be the measure of each of the other candidates.

William H. "Bill" Stewart
via e-mail

Job Opportunity

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

CASHIER

- Will handle cash/charge transactions for Joeten Motor Company.
- Must be proficient in basic accounting & computerize cashiering with the ADP System, TAMS System and credit card machine.
- Some cashiering experience will be helpful but will train.
- Salary will commensurate with experience.

NAPA AUTO PARTS COUNTER - SALES PERSON

- Must have at least 2yrs. experience in the Auto Parts Business.
- Be able to read and understand Online Parts Catalogs but will train.
- Must be proficient in basic math & some knowledge in basic computer skills (MS Word/Excel spreadsheet).
- Good communication skills.
- Willing, able and ready to work.
- Salary will commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants should pick up an Application Form from Risha at Joeten Motor Company, Inc the main office. No phone calls, please. Serious Inquires Only!

Joeten Motor Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a drug-free workplace.

NISSAN

2008 Summer Sales Event

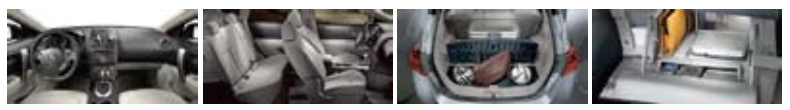
The All-New Altima
Luxury. Now available to all.

Push Button Ignition. Intelligent Key. Available Bluetooth® Hands-Free Phone System. Bringing performance and luxury to drivers everywhere.

Introducing Rogue
A whole new crossover

The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.

The All-New '09 Nissan Murano
IN STOCK NOW!



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
~~Frontier SE~~	~~#7C40890~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$26,990.00~~

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
~~Sorento~~	~~#6560698~~ SOLD	~~Green~~	~~$18,995.00~~

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
~~F-150~~	~~#6NB857~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$21,990.00~~

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Fit	#7S031086	Silver	$14,995.00
~~Fit Sport~~	~~#7S03110~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,495.00~~
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

Joeten Motors 30th ANNIVERSARY

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Coke names final winners of its Golden Ticket promotion

"The sodas taste good, and what's more, you get a chance to win prizes just for drinking them."

This is according to the final draw winners of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc.'s "Golden Ticket Giveaway," an eight-week promo that started on June 7, 2008 and ended on July 31, 2008. The Golden Ticket promo gave Coca-Cola lovers a chance to win free passes to the movies all summer long.

"I could not believe I won," Ryan Paras of Koblerville said. "I am very thankful to Coke. It's nice to have a beverage company like Coke coming up with promos like this. You get to drink good sodas and you also get to win," he added.

Paras, a first-time winner, said he will take his nieces and nephews to the movies.

He said he bought Coke products by the cases over the past several weeks for parties.

Santiago Babauta of Marpi, another first-time winner; said Coke promos "give more value for our money."

"This is good. It saves me money taking my family to the movies," said Babauta, a hotel employee. He said he regularly buys Coke products in liter bottles.

A ticket at Hollywood Theaters costs $5 for all shows before 6 p.m.

Glennise M. Ada of Chalan Kanoa, and likewise a first-time winner; said she did not expect to win. "I always buy Coke and Sprite. I was surprised when I was told I won," Ada, a sales representative for a distributing company; said.

She added, "I am thankful that Coke regularly comes up with promos. They always have something for their customers." Ada said regular promos help enhance product loyalty.

She said she'll take her 9-year-old daughter, Alexis; and six-year-old son, Angelo to the movies.

Previous to the Golden Ticket Giveaway, CCBM held the Nestea Summer Splash promo, which kicked off on June 8, 2007. The promo had a total of 45 winners who won Wave Jungle passes inclusive of lunch at Saipan World Resort.

In August last year, CCBM also gave away Paradise Sun t-shirts to customers.

The Golden Ticket final draw was held at the CCBM office on July 31, 2008. The other two winners in this draw were Joe P. Guerrero and M. Angela Wheat. ***(PR)***

AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

What matters most still matters

Education matters

The enrollment for next School Year for K4 to Level 12 is still open for new students.
Remember, Education is not a burden but an investment for the child/children you love.
The following is the tuition fees for 2008-2009 School Year beginning August 18, 2008

- Registration: $75 for all students
- Book fees: $250 per student a year
- **Tuition: $150 per month for 10 months** (August 08 to May 09)

New students who have enrolled in other schools will have the registration fee waived upon submitting the original registration receipt from other schools.

AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Accelerated Christian Education/School of Tomorrow System
(At Calvary International Mission Building, Gualo Rai Village)
E-mail: cimsaipan@gmail.com
For more information, please call us at 898-3684 or 235-8540

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to renew its State Plan for Fiscal Year 2009. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress and accomplishments, problems and such that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mr. George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor and Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan or Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1344.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipåttamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Progråman Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anununsia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2009. Komu ma'aomenta hålom gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u makumple I otden para manrisibin salåpe' , man marekomenda ha lokkue para bai en fatinas repot pot Adelånton I problema siha tatkomu gumuaha gi progråma kuåntos åños maloffan tatte. I LIHEAP na progråma heneråtmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kåndet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

Venue	Scheduled Dates	Times
Saipan-Multi Purpose Center	August 15-16, 2008	6:00 pm
Rota-Rota Aging Center	August 22, 2008	6:00 pm
Tinian-Tinian Gymnasium	August 29, 2008	6:00 pm

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiåtmente para ayo I man kuålifikao na man åmko, yan/man inutit, yan pumalu siha na indibiduåt ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku henerårt komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plånun este na inadulånta para u ma'ågang si Siñot George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, yan Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan, Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinan gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todu eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para mås infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ågang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisinå-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1344.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekke arongaar toulap igha ekke mángiiy bwe ebwe féérú seféliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2009. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkuléév ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféér ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróóma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe ffaingiir Sóumwár George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, me llimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me/ngare Sóumwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifoon kka 664-2569 ngare 664-2568 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1344.

Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóól Luuta, Tchúlúyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyéélágh kkaal.

/s/ **Melvin L.O. Faisao**
Acting Secretary, DCCA

Marianas Trench Marine Monument

FACT or FICTION? *(part 2 of 2)*

FICTION: CNMI fishermen will be denied the right to fish in the monument waters.

FACT: That is not yet certain. The idea of a sanctuary/park/monument is to protect and preserve species, not hunt them into oblivion, but the extent to which non-commercial fishing will be allowed will be determined by the actual negotiation between the CNMI and federal officials.

FICTION: The CNMI is being rushed/pushed into something it isn't ready for.

FACT: It is true that there is a deadline involved - the end of President Bush's term. In the meantime, every effort is being made to make sure that the people are fully informed and will be fully involved in the final terms of the monument agreement.

FICTION: The monument will only cost the CNMI more money that it does not have.

FACT: Because it will be a federal monument, the cost will be borne by the federal government. In fact, the monument will bring in additional funds and provide a much-needed boost to the CNMI's downward spiraling economy.

FICTION: The monument will not create new jobs for locals.

FACT: The monument would create an array of jobs, for many of which locals should be able to qualify. The monument will bring more visitors, which will open jobs in the proposed visitor's center, and jobs in providing services to the media, researchers, tourists who will come.

FICTION: The monument project is being conducted without local input.

FACT: There is an on-going effort to include locals in the process. The sooner official representation is established the more input the CNMI will have. Once the decision has been made to declare it a monument, formal participation by the locals is written into the procedure.

FICTION: With local protection of the northern islands and proposed protection of the waters via Senator Pete Reyes' Senate bill, there is no need for federal control.

FACT: Though local legislation is a step in the right direction, consistency in support and in providing funds to maintain the protection would be a problem. Federal backing assures funding, and provides greater consistency in maintaining protection.

FICTION: The CNMI negotiated with the U.S. regarding control over aspects of governance, etc., through the Covenant and this "federalization" violates that agreement.

FACT: The CNMI is part of the United States. It has, in essence, already been "federalized."

Brought to you by the Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

Red flag raised on 12 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 12 Saipan beach sites and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are San Roque School, DPW Channel Ridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Dai-Ichi drainage, Hafa-Adai Hotel, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, Comm. School Beach, Sugar Dock, and San Antonio Lift Station.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. This week, the division analyzed samples taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

VISITING COUSINS

The young Haraguchi sisters—Nana, 10, Akane, 12, and Shiho, 14 (the three seated in the center) finally got their wish to come to Saipan and visit their cousins, Manatsu, 12, left, and Kanata, 11, rightmost. They recently arrived from Japan and are staying with their uncle, Takahiro Omori, general manager of Coral Ocean Point Resort. It's their first time on Saipan and they are greatly enjoying their visit here. After two weeks, they will go back to their home in Fukuoka, in time for the school opening.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER

JULY 2008 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Saipan Water

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout July 2008, we collected 112 water samples in Saipan to test for the presence of coliform bacteria with seven samples or 6.25% showing the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent (5%) of samples may do so.

What should I do?

• **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

• People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other; potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipelines). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did find these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

What happened? What was done? Look below for the specific village or streets where problems occurred in July 2008:

• **Agag:** (sample ID#6C, Santa Lourdes Rd.) Tests indicate that there were proper chlorine levels in the water system; however, samples were collected during or within an hour of a power outage, the chlorine treatment did not have enough mixing or contact time in the distribution system. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfections process.

• **San Vicente:** (sample ID#12A, Palu Ln.) The chlorine equipment malfunctioned during power outages. The repairs are now complete and chlorine treatment increased for disinfections process.

• **Dandan:** (sample ID#21C, 21B, Msgr. Guerrero Rd,. Msgr. Martinez Rd. Dahon Dr.) Treatment operators discovered a broken chlorinator supply hose connecting the gas chlorinator to the distribution line. This caused disruption to the treatment process, during which time the water serving this limited area did not receive adequate chlorine treatment. Water operators replaced the damaged chlorinator supply hose and flushed the lines until adequate chlorine treatment was detected throughout the distribution area. Repeat samples tests indicate to be free of both total coliform and E. coli. Chlorine treatment increased for disinfections process

For more information, please contact CUC Water Quality Laboratory Manager, Heidi Yelin at 322-5140 or via email at: cuclabman@yahoo.com or contact CUC Water Division Manager, Mariano Iglecias at 235-7025 or via email at: miglecias@cucgov.net

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Water Division
State Water System ID #: MP 0000001 Date Distributed: August 15, 2008

NMC orientation for new students today

To familiarize them with their new surroundings and the expectations of college classes, new Northern Marianas College students are encouraged to attend the student orientation scheduled for today, Friday, Aug. 15, 2008 at 9:30am. A second, more condensed orientation session will be conducted at 5:30pm. Students can attend either one.

At the orientation, new students will be able to meet with advisors who will talk about student responsibilities, study skills, and tips for college success. NMC staff will also be on-hand to clarify the college's registration process. The orientation will also include a tour of the campus.

Registration for the Fall 2008 semester begins next week, Monday through Friday, from 9am to 6pm. Late registration will be on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 9am to 12pm.

Those who have not applied for admission can submit their application as late as Aug.t 23, 2008, provided that they have taken the English and math placement tests already.

For more information about registration, class schedules, and placement test schedules, visit the college's website at www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

CAMPUS BULLETIN

MAFEA membership meeting set

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, MAFEA, will be having a general membership meeting on Aug. 17, 2008, Saturday, at 6pm, at Geoffrey Melchor's residence in As Perdido.

We urge all members and those who want to become a member to attend this meeting for a very important matters to be discuss," said association secretary Carlito J. Marquez.

For more information, contact Marquez at 286-6337/322-0232, or Bong at 233- 5938. ***(PR)***

Ocean-site Market to start soon

The Carolinian Affairs Office Ocean-site Market will be held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan each Wednesday evening from 5pm to 9pm beginning Aug. 27, 2008. There will be an informational meeting for all interested vendors on Monday, Aug. 18, at 3pm at the Carolinian Utt. Vendor applications are available from CAO. For more information, call CAO at 670.234.6385/7. ***(PR)***

Ethnic minorities group sets picnic

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities (CREAM) will be hosting a Family Get Together Picnic on Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008, 11am - 3pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion. The picnic will be filled with fun and enjoyment as residents, friends, co-workers and others will be gathering after a long period of not meeting and exchanging pleasantries as in the old days.

The family get together picnic day will be like a reunion of sort. Therefore, the coalition is inviting all ethnic minorities living on the island to come and join the fun. ***(PR)***

NMC Alumni general membership meeting

There will be a general membership meeting of all NMC alumni at the Hard Rock Café Private Room on Aug. 21, 2008 (Thursday) at 6:30pm. All NMC alumni are invited to attend. We will be signing up alumni, selecting the official NMC alumni logo, presenting alumni ID card benefits, and more.

Your attendance will be greatly appreciated in this historic revitalization of the NMC Alumni Association. Come and get re-acquainted with former classmates. ***(PR)***

SSHS registration schedule

All students that have been evaluated and graduated from Hopwood are required to register. You are not officially enrolled if your parents/legal guardians did not submit a registration form.

Forms can be picked up from the SSHS Office and submitted by Aug. 22, 2008 for you to be enrolled in SSHS.

All returning students must return all textbooks and settle all obligations. ***(PR)***

Efforts to collect unpaid wages started

The meeting that discussed the possibility of pursuing legal action to recover administrative orders pertaining to unpaid wages took place last Aug. 12, 2008. The main agenda of the meeting was legal cost, identifying contact persons and the options available.

The group is calling on all guest workers who have been issued by the Department of Labor an administrative order stating that they are entitled to unpaid wages but their employer is either out of business or has filed for bankruptcy and they are the beneficiaries of surety bond to contact Irene at 285 7717. 322 8897 (call and leave your name and number) or e-mail at irenebdi@yahoo.com. The administrative order must be within six years from issuance.

"It is your right to collect what you worked for. This might be the chance for you. Please contact us immediately so we can explain to you what you need to do," Tantiado said. ***(PR)***

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Miss Marianas Universe pageant in October

Stellar Marianas, the islands' non-profit pageant organization, is now recruiting candidates for the 2008 Miss Marianas Universe Pageant, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 18, 2008.

Women with ages 17-25 year old will have the opportunity to represent the CNMI as its ambassador to the world and be a positive role model for the communities of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands.

The winner will be crowned the 2009 Miss Marianas Universe to compete in the 2009 Miss Universe in May and the 2009 Miss International Pageant in September.

Contestants will automatically receive free hair and make-up training, free nutrition and fitness training, free model portfolio, free media and public speaking training, a goodie bag from Stellar Marianas, opening number outfits, swimsuits and two month worth of fun community events and activities.

The titleholder could win $1,000 cash, $1,000 scholarship award, all expense-paid travel to the Miss Universe and Miss International pageants and a list of other fabulous prizes.

Contestants have to 17-25 years old, U.S. citizen, single (not married), have no children, and of good moral and ethical character.

"As a contestant, you will learn how to be confident on stage, meet different people, understand the virtues of competition and earn the chance to represent your islands to the best of your ability," said national director Neda Camacho.

"As a titleholder, your world just changes. There will be many opportunities for you to grow, boost your career and education through the scholarship awards as well as help to better your community," she said.

Applications are available at Marianas Variety office in Garapan and are due on Aug. 29, 2008.

For more information, call Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer at 888-1609 or e-mail Camacho at camacho698@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-CSC-086 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 03, 2008 **TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

"JANITORIAL AND LAWN CARE SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUILDING NO. 1211, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED CONTRACTOR MAY CONTACT ANGIE SABLAN AT (670) 322-4663 DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS FROM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FOR A SCHEDULED SITE VISIT OF THE FACILITY.

CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE LABOR, TOOLS, EQUIPMENTS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE JOB.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ NORBERT S. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPS-087
Submission/Opening Date: August 22, 2008 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) WATERCRAFTS W/TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY OFFICE"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ ANICETO T. OGUMORO
ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Bangladeshi community marks leader's 33rd death anniversary

The Bangladesh Awami League Community (CNMI) is inviting everyone in the community to a commemoration of the death of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, considered the father of Bengali nation.

Awami League coordinator Rakibul Islam Minto said that today, Aug. 15, is the 33nd death anniversary of Mujibur Rahman, who was killed on Aug. 15, 1975, in a military coup.

Minto said the group would be hosting a prayer at the Garapan mosque at 8:30 tonight and is inviting everyone to join them in praying for the departed soul of Mujibur Rahman.

The mosque is located just behind the Mobil gas station on Middle Road.

"We are inviting everybody to come for a prayer and dinner also," said Minto.

When Pakistan achieved independence in 1947, Bangladesh (then called East Bangal and called East Pakistan after 1955) became an eastern province of Pakistan, from which it is separated by more than on thousand miles.

A movement for greater autonomy was spearheaded by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League, which was founded in 1949 to pursue the political interests of East Pakistan.

The League won a majority in the federal Pakistani assembly in 1970, but the government postponed assembly session. As a result, on March 26, 1971, the Awami League declared the province independent as Bangladesh. Civil war ensued, and an estimated one million Bengalis died before India intervened on Bangladesh's behalf and defeated Pakistan in December 1971.

The country's initial government formed in 1972 under Mujibur Rahman, who became prime minister. In 1975 Mujibur Rahman was killed in a military coup. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Wind Energy Systems, Adult Business, Zoning Permits and Fees
Proposed Zoning Regulations
Public Meeting/Hearing

The Zoning Board invites the public to comment on proposed Zoning Board regulations. The regulations cover five topic areas: wind energy systems; establishment of an adult business overlay zone; definitions of "major" and "minor" site plans; adjusting permit fees; and general editing. A public meeting/hearing will be held to take comment. There will also be presentations on wind energy systems.

Place:	Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Date:	Thursday, August 28, 2008
Time:	6:00 pm

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, August 29, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Copies of the proposed regulation can be downloaded from www.zoning.gov.mp. Copies can be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan.

For questions or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663/7. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP08-DEQ-083

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"CONDUCT OF ASTM PHASE I AND PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF BROWNFIELDS SITES ON SAIPAN, CNMI UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STATE RESPONSE PROGRAM AND BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITY WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANTS"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 15, 2008** AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp.** THE DEQ OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 10:00 A.M., SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM 205.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO MR. RAY MASGA, MANAGER, SITE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION BRANCH, AT (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO raymasga@deq.gov.mp. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008.

THE CNMI LOCAL PREFERENCE LAW, CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** IN THIS PROCUREMENT BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY THE FEDERAL LAW GRANTING THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 13 (Lower Navy Hill), 26 (As Lito), and 27 (San Antonio).

A public hearing will be held:
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 **Time:** 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at
Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Rota International Airport Runway Phase II project, Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);

3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;

4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and

5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., August 15, 2008.**

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:
Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/**Lee C. Cabrera**
Acting Executive Director
July 16, 2008

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-OHS-090

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 28, 2008
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) SETS OF COMPUTER COMPONENT PARTS FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

LOCAL BUSINESS PREFERENCE AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** TO LOCAL BIDDERS IN THIS PROCUREMENT BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY THE FEDERAL LAW GRANTING THE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ PATRICK J. TENORIO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPH-088
Submission/Opening Date: August 22, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PRINTING OF THE W.I.C. FOOD VOUCHERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, W.I.C. PROGRAM"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive during regular working hours. **Any inquiries regarding this ITB may be addressed to Mr. James SN. Montenegro, System Administrator at 664-4067.**

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

OPEN DAILY 6:00AM (MONDAY-SUNDAY)

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AUGUST 15-18, 2008

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Takeya Miso Tokujyo 500 Jpn $2.88 /ea.

PRODUCE

Cabbage Green 79¢ /lb.

Broccoli Crown $1.52 /lb.

Yellow Onion 49¢ /lb.

Potato Brown $1.52 /lb.

Celery Sleeve	$1.06 /lb.
Bell Pepper, Red US	$2.59 /lb.
Netted Garlic	$1.53 /lb.
US Orange	91¢ /lb.
D Anjou Pears	$2.01 /lb.
Peanut US	$2.03 /lb.
US Lemon	$2.46 /lb.

GROCERY

Black Label Luncheon Loaf 12 oz. $1.53 /ea.

Spam Regular 12 oz. $1.88 /ea.

FROZEN

Beef Striploin Steak US CHC	$9.95 /lb.
Beef Tendons US CHC	$2.19 /lb.
Beef Hearts US	$1.49 /lb.
Beef Top Sirloin Steak US CML	$2.99 /lb.
Pork Feet Sliced	$1.29 /lb.
Pork Hocks Whole	$1.69 /lb.
Pork Whole Leg Bone-In 17-20 Lbs.	$1.89 /lb.
Smoke Pork Shoulder Picnic Ham 5-9 lbs.	$1.89 /lb.
Turkey Thighs Boneless/ Skinless	$1.29 /lb.
Whole Quail 20 oz.	$9.50 /ea.
Tilapia	$1.25 /lb.
Seafood Mix 1#	$2.25 /ea.

NON-FOOD

Cottonelle Tissue 4 Rolls $1.67 /ea.

Dawn Original Scent 2.66L $9.68 /ea.

Formula 409 Orange 32 oz. $3.05 /ea.

Niagara Spray Original 15 oz. $1.35 /ea.

Lion/Tiger Mosquito Coils 125G	$1.52 /ea.
Axxion Comp. Plates 20 ct.	$2.42 /ea.
Liquid Plumber Clog Remomer 32 oz.	$2.54 /ea.
Tide with Bleach Clean 100 oz.	$10.61 /ea.
Tide with Bleach Mountain Spring 100 oz.	$10.61 /ea.
Smoca T/Powder Green 155G	$2.54 /ea.
Smoca T/Powder Red 155G	$2.54 /ea.
Sentinel Cosmetic Pads 80 ct.	$1.61 /ea.
Sentinel Cotton Balls 200 ct.	$2.34 /ea.

GROCERY

Fruit Cocktail (S&W) 15 oz.	$1.58 /ea.
S&W Slices Peaches 15 oz.	$1.58 /ea.
S&W Asparagus Spears 15 oz.	$3.02 /ea.
Western Family Whole Peeled Tomato 145oz.	84¢ /ea.
Prgeserviertes Gremuese Vegetable 1kg.	$1.22 /ea.
Ligo Sardines Red 5.5 oz.	34¢ /ea.
Sunflower Mackerel 15oz.	$1.61 /ea.
Dinty Mooire Noodles & Chicken 75oz.	99¢ /ea.
S&W Black Beans 15oz.	$1.15 /ea.
Hormel Pigs Feet 14oz.	$2.99 /ea.
Armours Sliced Dried Beef 45oz.	$2.97 /ea.
House Vermont Mild 250G Japan	$2.87 /ea.
House Java Curry 220G Japan	$2.87 /ea.
House Vermont Med 250G Japan	$2.87 /ea.
Takeya Miso 1KG	$4.34 /ea.
S&B Table Kosho 20G Japan	$1.61 /ea.
Caridni Ceasar Dressing 32 oz.	$5.86 /ea.
Vlasic Whole Pickled 1 Gal.	$5.52 /ea.
Higasa Sushi Nomuto 280G	$3.65 /ea.
Folgers Coffee Decaf 39 oz.	$8.49 /ea.
Karo Corn Syrup Dark 16 oz.	$2.54 /ea.
Karo Corn Syrup with Brown Sugar 16oz.	$2.54 /ea.

THE LIQUOR SHOPPE

The Largest Selection of Wine, Liquor & Beer

Alize Gold Passion 750ml. $21.07 /ea.

Rosemount Cab Merlot 750ml. $15.20 /ea.

Chivas Regal 12Yrs Old 750ml. $27.00 /ea.

Karoyaka Junmai 2 Ltr.	$17.36 /ea.
Plum Wine 500 ml.	$8.15 /ea.
Ginza No Suzune 750 ml.	$13.74 /ea.
Gallo Vermounth 750 ml.	$7.38 /ea.
Dekuyper Triple Sec	$15.30 /ea.
Dekuyper Triple 1 Ltr.	$15.30 /ea.
Jacob's Creek Char.	$8.73 /ea.
Sutter Home White Zif 750 ml.	$9.68 /ea.

Tel. 234-6230 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN KANOA • STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 6:00am-9:00pm • Sunday 6:00am-7:00pm

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Island Snapshots

TRANSPACIFIC HONORED

American Red Cross board members express their gratitude to Transpacific Inc. management for many years of support. Transpacific Inc., which operates Coca Cola, Subway, Glimpses and Foremost has been an important supporter of the NMI Chapter. "Their willingness to support our various community events such as Walkathon has enabled us to provide critical Red Cross services here in the Commonwealth, including disaster preparedness, assistance to fire victims, and our many Heath and Safety programs" said John Hirsh, director of the NMI Chapter. From left, Maureen Maratita, publisher, Glimpses Magazine; Lou Johnson, Viola Sablan, Larry Lee, Red Cross Board members; Stella Fong, VP Subway; John Hirsh, Red Chapter manager; and Johnnie Fong, president of Transpacific Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHILDREN'S FUN DAY

Department of Public Safety Police officer Andrea Osawa, center, assists in giving out food to children during the first ever Children's Fun Day at Kilili Pavilion in Susupe Sunday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CRIME STOPPERS

Jim Arenovski, center, director of Crime Stoppers International in the Western Pacific, poses with the Director of the U.S. Marshal Service and Jim Schield from the U.S. Marshal Service – International Operations. Arenovski has just returned from the Crime Stoppers International Training Conference. He said a number of agreements were signed between Crime Stoppers, Interpol and the U.S. Marshal Service and a new anti-human trafficking program called "The Blue Blindfold" from the UK.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SKATE PARK UPDATE

Island SK8 Society secretary Deirdre McClarin gives some updates on the construction of the $150,000 Garapan skating park, a project of the Saipan Rotary Club, during the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's restaurant. The park is expected to be finished by September and will have its soft opening in October.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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World Resort Royal Taga Hall
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- **Military Build up**
- **Local Opportunities**
- **Aquaculture and Agriculture Opportunities**
- **CNMI's Plan**

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,063.500
Up 67.600
(+1.35%)

HONG KONG
21,268.78
Down 24.54
(-0.12%)

JAKARTA
2,088.583
Up 25.062
(+1.21%)

TOKYO
12,993.49
Down 29.56
(-0.23%)

K. LUMPUR
1,112.53
Down 6.25
(-0.56%)

MANILA
2,727.28
Up 5.34
(+0.20%)

SINGAPORE
2,810.06
Down 1.73
(-0.06%)

SEOUL
1,573.77
Up 11.05
(+0.71%)

BANGKOK
704.19
Up 2.59
(+0.37%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,532.96
-109.51

NASDAQ
2,428.62
-1.99

S&P
1,285.83
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1503
British Pound	0.5357
Canadian Dollar	1.0632
Chinese Renmbi	6.8602
Euro	0.6723
Hong Kong Dollar	7.809
Indian Rupee	42.845
Indonesian Rupiah	9184
Japanese Yen	109.51
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3295
New Zealand Dollar	1.4295
Philippine Peso	44.923
Singapore Dollar	1.4099
South Korean Won	1038.5
Swiss Franc	1.0879
Taiwan Dollar	30.725
Thailand Baht	33.692

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Oil rebounds after US gasoline supplies drop

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices rebounded Wednesday, jumping back to $116 a barrel after the government reported a bigger-than-expected drop in U.S. gasoline supplies. But more signs of dwindling U.S. demand cast doubt on the rally's longevity.

At the pump, a gallon of regular gasoline shed on average another penny overnight to $3.787, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. That's nearly 8 percent lower than record prices above $4 a gallon reached last month, but still 37 percent higher than a year ago; retail gasoline prices tend to lag behind crude oil's moves by several weeks.

In its weekly inventory report, the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said gasoline supplies fell by 6.4 million barrels to 202.8 million barrels for the week ended Aug. 8, nearly three times more than the 2.2 million barrel drop analysts surveyed by energy research firm Platts had expected.

The big drop in gasoline stocks prompted traders to buy oil and gasoline contracts on signs of supply tightness. However, analysts said the surprisingly large drawdown suggests that U.S. refineries are scaling back on production in response to falling demand—not that Americans are suddenly driving more because of easing pump prices.

AP

Rito Anaya, who works at a landscaping business, pumps gas into gas tanks at Gas Depot gas station in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008. The average U.S. retail gasoline price was $3.799 a gallon on Tuesday, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. That is down a penny from Monday, and down 31.5 cents from the July 17 all-time high.

Japanese economy posts Q2 contraction

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economy shrank for the first time in a year in the second quarter, the government said Wednesday, but officials—joined by many economists—denied the downturn heralded a return of the "lost decade" economy of the 1990s.

Hit by faltering exports and wilting consumer demand, the world's No. 2 economy, which until now had managed to power forward, is beginning to succumb to the onslaught of rising commodities prices and global economic turmoil.

Whether Japan has indeed entered recessionary territory remains up for debate, but economists generally agree that the current downturn won't be as deep or as long as the economic malaise that crippled the country in the 1990s. They cite healthier fundamentals than in the past, when Japan faced excess debt, labor and capacity.

Guam digital television coming soon

TAMUNING, Guam—GTA TeleGuam announced yesterday the scheduled launch of Guam Digital Television, or GUdTV.

GTA GUdTV will launch in early September with a VIP party and unveiling of the product as well as a village by village commercial launch beginning with the village of Dededo.

Andrew Gayle, executive vice president of wireless and video at GTA TeleGuam, said, "We are extremely excited that Guam Digital TV is finally coming to Guam. We promised the island digital TV two years ago and the GTA family are promise-keepers. We are proud to offer Guam Digital TV, or what we call GUdTV. This service is 100 percent digital TV, offers more channels and better picture quality. Our $99 bundle includes GUdTV, SPYDER Internet and voice services."

"Many companies talk about the value of choice for their customers. Now they have the opportunity to choose another TV provider, something customers have not been able to do here on Guam for some time. GTA will be doing a village by village roll-out and the service will be coming soon to your area," Gayle added.

GTA TeleGuam announced the successful delivery of the first high definition channels to Guam in April of this year, showcasing their HD product at the grand opening of the GTA TeleGuam Store in the Micronesia Mall as a prelude to the delivery of their GUdTV product. GUdTV will have up to 20 HD channels in its initial launch.

For more information about GTA TeleGuam's products and services, call GTA's Call Center Hotline at 644-4GTA (4482). ***(PR)***

RECHARGEABLE CAR AP

In an undated photo provided by General Motors, Andrew Farah, the Volt's chief engineer, is shown with the rechargeable car in Detroit. Early versions of the Volt's battery packs are powerful enough to run the high-stakes rechargeable car, but dozens of issues remain before General Motors Corp. can start selling the revolutionary vehicle in 2010 as planned. Farah is on a tight schedule to figure out how the car will handle the batteries' weight, dissipate their heat and mechanically transfer their power to the wheels. The car is designed to run on an electric motor powered by a battery pack. Drivers will recharge the vehicle from a standard home wall outlet. The Volt will be able to travel 40 miles on a full charge, and a small gasoline engine will recharge the batteries to keep it rolling on longer trips. GM says the vehicle will get the equivalent of 150 miles per gallon.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks end an erratic day with lopsided loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended an erratic session Wednesday with a lopsided loss as blue chips fell on investors' concerns over the health of financial companies and high-tech stocks fared better on news from the semiconductor sector. The Dow Jones industrials fell more than 100 points, but the other major indexes finished with single-digit losses. The Dow fell 109.51, or 0.94 percent, to 11,532.96. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 3.76, or 0.29 percent, to 1,285.83, while the tech-focused Nasdaq composite index fell 1.99, or 0.08 percent, to 2,428.62. Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 2.11 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.55 percent, Germany's DAX index lost 2.49 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 2.56 percent.

Charges drag Tribune to $4.5 billion 2Q loss

NEW YORK (AP)—Tribune Co. plunged to a $4.53 billion loss in the second quarter after taking a $3.84 billion charge to write down the book value of its newspaper brands. The charge comes a day after E.W. Scripps Co. took a $874 million write-down as sharp declines in advertising revenue throughout the industry reduces the value of newspaper businesses. Tribune, based in Chicago, earned $36.3 million in the year-ago second quarter. The company was taken private in an $8.2 billion buyout led by real estate mogul Sam Zell last December. It still reports results to comply with bondholder agreements because of its massive debt load. Tribune's revenue fell 6 percent to $1.11 billion, as newspaper advertising revenue slumped 15 percent.

Retail sales drop for first time in 5 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—Retail sales delivered the weakest performance in five months in July as shoppers shunned autos while they paid more for gas.

With the mass mailings of $92 billion in rebate checks now just a memory, there is concern the fragile economy could slow even more in the second half of this year.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that retail sales fell 0.1 percent last month, the first decline since a 0.5 percent tumble in February. It was a worse showing than the flat reading economists had been expecting and followed a revised but still weak 0.3 percent reading for June.

Analysts said retail sales would have been more feeble without the $92 billion in rebate payments the government sent out in May, June and July. Those checks helped to counter plunging home prices, rising unemployment and soaring gasoline prices.

The bulk mailings are now over, though, leaving economists worried about what will happen next to spending.

"Cautious and uncertain consumers are watching their wallets and with the back-to-school shopping season under way, that does not bode well for retailers," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

Coping with a workplace steeped in negativity

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Complaining about work might seem natural, but it can also be a huge time waster, dragging down the productivity and well-being of the chronic complainers, as well as everyone around them.

Even if you want to stay positive, once a culture of negativity has taken root in your workplace, it can be hard to resist.

But that doesn't mean you shouldn't try. Jon Gordon outlines a way out of this trap in "The No Complaining Rule: Positive Ways to Deal with Negativity at Work" (Wiley, $20).

Gordon's core message is simple and effective. But it's also deliverable in a handout. To illustrate that message, and to pad it out to the length of a book, he wraps it into a parable about a troubled company and its beleaguered—but eventually triumphant—human resources executive. Only at the end does he deliver the goods: a practical, step-by-step plan for maintaining a healthy attitude at work.

The crux of that plan is to cut down on complaining. But Gordon isn't saying we all need to stick our fingers in our ears and try to la-la-la our way to happier workplaces. Instead, people—and organizations—must work to transform "mindless complaining" into "justified complaining."

"The difference is intent," Gordon writes. "With mindless complaining you are mindlessly focusing on problems; however, with justified complaining, you identify a problem and the complaint moves you forward to a solution."

In other words, before you gripe about something—especially to your boss—stop and think of one or two suggestions to fix the problem. Similarly, if other people tend to use you as an outlet for their complaining, turn the focus back to them, and ask what they think should be done about the problem. (In my experience, this technique works just as well in family dining rooms as corporate board rooms.)

His advice is such common sense that it's surprising how few people follow it. Mindless complaining is so pervasive that many people don't even realize they are doing it, or they try to justify it as therapeutic "venting." Not sure whether you're a problem whiner? Gordon includes a brief quiz at the end of the book that helps you figure out where you fit on the continuum of complainers.

Once you know that, breaking the complaining habit is pretty straightforward, and Gordon turns to some classic advice:

■ Practice gratitude. Count your blessings each day. "If you are focusing on gratitude, you can't be negative," Gordon writes. "You can also energize and engage your co-workers by letting them know you are grateful for them and their work."

■ Praise others. "Instead of complaining about what others are doing wrong, start focusing on what they are doing right," he says. Aim for a ratio of three positive comments for every negative one.

■ Let go. Some things aren't worth complaining about because there is nothing anybody can do to fix them. "You'll be amazed that when you stop trying to control everything, it all somehow works out," Gordon writes.

Of course, his suggested changes can be implemented fairly easily on an individual level. For most people, it's just a matter of breaking a bad habit. (Admittedly, for some lifelong, chronic complainers, this may be almost as difficult as quitting smoking.)

It's on the organizational level that things can get tough. It doesn't matter what kind of "complaint process" a company sets up if the people at the top don't wholeheartedly embrace the idea—and if the rank and file don't think it's sincere. After all, plenty of floundering organizations have "complaint czars," intranet discussion pages and suggestion boxes.

More often than not, those suggestion boxes just sit empty—or fill up with trivialities—while the real problems are "vented" at the local bar.

Someone's lying

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Although only 8 percent of workers admitted to stretching the truth on their resumes, nearly half of hiring managers reported that they have caught a candidate lying on his or her resume, according to a CareerBuilder.com survey of more than 3,100 hiring managers and over 8,700 workers nationwide.

If you get caught, the fib can cost you the job. More than half of the employers who had caught someone lying said they automatically dismissed the applicant. A small percentage (6 percent) ended up hiring the applicant anyway.

The most common resume lies included embellishing responsibilities and skills, fudging dates of employment and faking degrees and job titles. But some people got more creative, according to the hiring managers. They cited applicants that:

■ Claimed to be a member of the Kennedy family.

■ Invented a school that did not exist.

■ Submitted a resume with someone else's photo inserted into the document.

■ Listed military experience dating back to before he was born.

■ Included samples of work, which the interviewer actually did.

■ Claimed to have been a professional baseball player.

Pretty hilarious. Unless, of course, those hiring managers just made them up.

Responding to the dreaded rejection letter

By LILY GARCIA
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A reader writes:

"I recently interviewed at a dream company. Unfortunately the next day I was turned down: `Although your credentials are impressive we have decided to continue our search.' What does this mean? Typically I suck it up and move on. However, this is a dream job at a dream organization and I really want this position or a lower position by which I can potentially move up in the organization. Is there anything I can do to engage this company once more? My immediate thoughts are to solicit feedback as to what would make me a stronger candidate and ask for consideration for other positions restating my desire to work there. "

The response:

"Although your credentials are impressive we have decided to continue our search." Ah, the fine art of rejection. This deliberately ambiguous statement simply means that, for some reason that they are unable or unwilling to share, the company decided not to hire you. They could have met someone they liked better, who made a better impression on the interviewers. They might have found someone who has greater or more relevant education or experience, or they could have decided that your salary requirements are too high. From this statement, we simply cannot tell.

It is a waste of your time to try to analyze the rejection note. If you are determined to work there, I think that following up with a request for feedback is an excellent idea. Focus on interviewers who provided their business card and offered to be available for questions and those with whom you felt a special rapport. Ask not only about their view of why you were not the top choice for the job, but also whether they can think of any other jobs for which you would be well-suited. Also ask them how they got hired and what advice they have for someone, like you, who might be willing to accept a more junior role in order to make it into the organization. You might come across someone who really liked you and would be willing to get more information for you from the HR department. He or she might even be willing to meet you over coffee to talk about how to work your way into the company.

Some organizations follow a strict order of business when it comes to hiring. With only rare exceptions, they will only consider candidates who have come through established channels; for instance, their Web site or their recruiter. Others take more of a networking approach to hiring and allow for a broad range of entry points to the application process. And I have never heard of an organization that does not accept internal referrals from their own employees.

The trick is figuring out what type of organization you are dealing with and then planning your approach accordingly. Even as you are reaching out to your contacts, keep your eye on the company Web site and continue to apply for jobs. And make sure that your cover letter reflects your strong desire to work for this employer. I can tell you from personal experience as an internal recruiter that persistence pays, and so does loyalty. You will find that a company is more willing to invest in hiring someone who is dying to work for them than someone who might be easily lured away by a more attractive offer.

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Credit-card lawsuit exposes sleazy tactics

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Subprime credit cards are often attractive to consumers who have had credit problems and can't get approved for a regular card. But the consumer abuse associated with these cards makes them something to avoid.

The Federal Trade Commission has finally instituted a lawsuit against a subprime credit-card company after a long investigation, and the details of the suit are worth noting.

Among the counts of the lawsuit are: misrepresentation of available credit, failure to disclose fees and failure to disclose how use of the credit card would adversely affect available credit.

Here's how the government says it worked:

More than 1 million consumers applied for and believed they would receive a credit card with a $300 available credit limit, that there were no upfront fees and no deposit was required. The promotional mailings were misleading, with consumers required to follow a complicated set of asterisks and miscellaneous symbols on the front and back of multiple pages of text. Only there, buried in tiny print in various places, was the disclosure that there "may be" certain fees such as annual fee, account-opening fee and maintenance fee, which in this case amounted to $185 of the available $300 credit limit.

Also buried was the notice that the company would withhold half the credit until the fourth month. Only $115 of the original $300 would be left after fees were immediately deducted from the available balance.

Another objectionable tactic was the use of behavior-model credit scoring. According to the lawsuit, the behavior model of credit scoring takes into consideration where the consumer is using the card. Negatives include purchases from direct-marketing merchants, marriage and personal counselors, tire retreading and repair shops, nightclubs and bars, and pawn shops. When those types of purchases were found, the credit limits were immediately lowered to below an existing balance and the consumer was charged fees for being over the limit.

If you receive offers for subprime credit cards, always read every word on the offer. Visit the Federal Trade Commission Web site at www.ftc.gov and do a search for credit cards to learn if that company is being investigated. Better yet, if you have problem credit, work to clear it up before applying for a more mainstream credit card.

Nation

Man shoots dead Ark. Dem. chairman

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A man recently fired from a Target store barged into the Arkansas Democratic headquarters Wednesday and fatally shot the state party chairman before speeding off in his pickup. Police later shot and killed the suspect after a 30-mile chase.

Gwatney

Police identified the suspect as 50-year-old Timothy Dale Johnson of Searcy, a town about 50 miles northeast of Little Rock. They said that moments after the shooting, Johnson pointed a handgun at a worker at the nearby Arkansas Baptist headquarters. An official there said he told the worker, "I lost my job."

Chairman Bill Gwatney died four hours after the shooting. The 48-year-old former state senator had been planning to travel to the Democratic National Convention later this month as a superdelegate. He had backed Hillary Rodham Clinton but endorsed Barack Obama after she dropped out of the race.

Clinton and her husband, former President and former Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, issued a statement saying Gwatney was "not only a strong chairman of Arkansas' Democratic Party, but ... also a cherished friend and confidant."

Conway police said a Target store 30 miles north of Little Rock had fired Johnson earlier Wednesday because he had written graffiti on a store wall.

AP
Emergency personnel transport the suspect in the shooting of Arkansas Democratic Chairman Bill Gwatney from the Grant County scene near Sheridan, Ark. Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008 where he was shot by police after a chase from downtown Little Rock.

The age and address provided by Conway officers matched those provided by Little Rock police for its suspect.

Witnesses said the gunman entered the party offices shortly before noon and said he wanted to see Gwatney.

"He said he was interested in volunteering, but that was obviously a lie," said 17-year-old party volunteer Sam Higginbotham. He said that when the suspect was refused a meeting with Gwatney, he pushed past employees to reach the chairman's office.

Little Rock police spokesman Lt. Terry Hastings said the suspect and Gwatney introduced themselves to one another, at which time the suspect "pulled out a handgun and shot Gwatney several times." Hastings didn't say what the two discussed, but said their discussion was not a heated one.

Police said after leaving the office, the suspect pointed a gun at a worker at the Baptist headquarters seven blocks away. When asked what was wrong, the man said "I lost my job" said Dan Jordan, the group's business manager.

After the suspect avoided spike strips and a roadblock along U.S. 167 near Sheridan, police rammed his car, spinning it, said Grant County Sheriff Lance Huey. He got out of his truck and began shooting, and state police and sheriff's deputies fired back, striking him several times, he said.

Hastings said investigators found at least two handguns in the suspect's truck.

There was a busy signal Wednesday night at a phone number listed under Johnson's name. Little Rock police said they could find no criminal record for him.

According to Conway police spokeswoman Sharen Carter, Target fired Johnson before 8 a.m. Wednesday because he had written on a wall. Other store employees said Johnson's body shook as he turned in his ID badge. A Target manager had called police because of the incident but the wall had already been cleaned.

Julia Child part of WWII era spy ring

WASHINGTON (AP)—Famed chef Julia Child shared a secret with Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg and Chicago White Sox catcher Moe Berg at a time when the Nazis threatened the world. They served in an international spy ring managed by the Office of Strategic Services, an early version of the CIA created in World War II by President Franklin Roosevelt.

Child

The secret comes out Thursday, all of the names and previously classified files identifying nearly 24,000 spies who formed the first centralized intelligence effort by the United States. The National Archives, which this week released a list of the names found in the records, will make available for the first time all 750,000 pages identifying the vast spy network of military and civilian operatives.

They were soldiers, actors, historians, lawyers, athletes, professors, reporters. But for several years during World War II, they were known simply as the OSS. They studied military plans, created propaganda, infiltrated enemy ranks and stirred resistance among foreign troops.

Among the more than 35,000 OSS personnel files are applications, commendations and handwritten notes identifying young recruits who, like Child, Goldberg and Berg, earned greater acclaim in other fields—Arthur Schlesinger Jr., a historian and special assistant to President Kennedy; Sterling Hayden, a film and television actor whose work included a role in "The Godfather"; and Thomas Braden, an author whose "Eight Is Enough" book inspired the 1970s television series.

Edwards' wife was in anguish after affair

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Elizabeth Edwards' cancer diagnosis forced her to decide quickly whether she would leave her husband after he confessed to having an affair, her brother and a friend told People magazine.

"She couldn't say, 'Well, maybe we'll work through this for years, or maybe we should separate for two years,'" said Hargrave McElroy, a friend, told the magazine for its Aug. 25 issue. "(The cancer) forced her to choose whether to move forward."

Edwards, a two-time Democratic presidential candidate, admitted last week to having a short affair in 2006 with a filmmaker named Rielle Hunter, who was hired that year to produce short videos for his political action committee. The former North Carolina senator denied he was the father of Hunter's five-month old daughter, and offered to take a paternity test to prove it.

Through her attorney, Hunter rejected the idea of such a test and said she has no intention to speak publicly about the affair. Through a spokeswoman, both John and Elizabeth Edwards declined a request for an interview Wednesday.

Edwards has said he both ended the affair and told Elizabeth about his infidelity in 2006. He kicked off his second bid for the White House in New Orleans a few days after Christmas, at an event that Hunter attended and Elizabeth did not.

AP
In this July 5, 2008, file photo, firefighters watch as a brush fire burns out of control in the Santa Ynez Mountains near Goleta, Calif. Faced with hundreds of big, hard-to-control blazes, California is struggling with what could be its most expensive wildfire season ever, burning through $285 million in the last six weeks alone and up to $13 million a day.

Bigger, tougher fires bring Calif. to the brink

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Faced with hundreds of big, hard-to-control blazes, California is struggling with what could be its most expensive firefighting season ever, burning through $285 million in the last six weeks alone and up to $13 million a day.

With the worst of the fire season still ahead, lawmakers are scrambling to find a way to pay for it all and are considering slapping homeowners with a disaster surcharge that asks those in fire-prone areas to pay the most.

"There is no more fire season as we know it—the fire season is now all year-round," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said while touring wildfires last month in Northern California. "That means that we don't have enough resources." The crisis comes as California deals with a $15.2 billion budget deficit, and Schwarzenegger cited firefighting costs as a major factor when he ordered wages deferred for state workers and laid off others recently to cut costs.

Fire budgets have been strained across the West because more fires are escaping initial attacks and raging out of control, due largely to drier conditions and thicker brush. Higher fuel and labor costs are also factors.

And then there are the millions of people who have moved into fire-prone areas throughout the region over the last two decades. Their presence has forced state and federal firefighters to react aggressively to spare lives and property.

Remains of World War II pilot from Ky. identified

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Howard "Cliff" Enoch Jr. disappeared over what would become East Germany near the end of World War II, three months before his only son was born. Six decades later, that son, Howard Enoch III, is getting to know his father while planning a funeral and memorial service for a man he never met.

"For 63 years, I had no reason to believe I would ever find out what happened to my father," Enoch said. "It's been remarkable."

The Department of Defense announced Wednesday it had identified the remains of 2nd Lt. Howard Clifton Enoch Jr. of Marion, Ky. His burial is scheduled for Sept. 22 at Arlington National Cemetery and a memorial service is being planned for western Kentucky in October. Lt. Enoch was a 20-year-old pilot of a P-51D Mustang, a long-range single-seat fighter aircraft, that was shot down near the village of Doberschutz, Germany, on March 19, 1945. Lt. Enoch's remains were not immediately recovered and the crash site fell behind Soviet lines when the war ended in May 1945.

His son, Howard Enoch III, grew up in Marion, about 66 miles east of Metropolis, Ill. His mother remarried and he was eventually told about his father's disappearance.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pound of cyanide found in room where man died

DENVER (AP)—Authorities in Denver say they have found about a pound of highly toxic sodium cyanide in a hotel room where a man's body was discovered. Police say foul play is not suspected and FBI spokeswoman Kathy Wright said Wednesday there was no apparent connection to terrorism. The man's body was found Monday at the Burnsley Hotel about four blocks from the Colorado state Capitol, and investigators say he had been dead for several days. Police on Wednesday identified a white powder found in the room as sodium cyanide, which can be used as a pesticide or to extract gold from ore. The medical examiner's office says it is awaiting test results to determine whether cyanide killed the 29-year-old Canadian man.

New Orleans cops cleared in bridge shooting

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A judge threw out murder and attempted murder charges Wednesday against seven New Orleans police officers accused of gunning down two men on a bridge in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In quashing the indictments, District Judge Raymond Bigelow agreed with defense arguments that prosecutors violated state law by divulging secret grand jury testimony to a police officer who was a witness in the case. Survivors of the Sept. 4, 2005 shootings have said the officers fired at unarmed people crossing the Danziger Bridge to get food at a grocery store. Ronald Madison, a 40-year-old mentally disabled man, and James Brissette, 19, were shot and killed by police; four other people were wounded. The officers acknowledged shooting at people on the bridge, but said they did so only after first taking fire.

Police: Ga. man held family captive in squalor

LAVONIA, Ga. (AP)—When police finally searched the squat white mobile home where they say a man held his family captive for three years, the place was so filthy and bug-infested that one officer had to wear a gas mask and another refused to continue. Thousands of roaches and other bugs crawled in and out of drawers, cupboards and furniture. Spoiled food littered the place, and a long-ignored plumbing problem left the floors rotten and mattresses moldy. Investigators allege it was in this three-bedroom trailer in northeastern Georgia where Raymond Daniel Thurmond forced his wife and four children to live, allowing them to leave only once in three years. Even then, it was only fleeting: A two-hour Easter visit to his wife's parents' place in North Carolina.

Ex-sheriff to stand trial for sexual misconduct

ARAPAHO, Okla. (AP)—A former sheriff was ordered Wednesday to stand trial on felony charges that accuse him of demanding sex from female inmates in exchange for his help in getting them into a drug court rehabilitation program. Special Judge Paul Woodward found there was enough evidence to bring former Custer County Sheriff Mike Burgess to trial on 35 charges, including rape, following a two-day preliminary hearing during which several inmates testified that they feared they would be sent to prison if they didn't perform sexual acts on Burgess. Burgess was a member of a drug court panel that decides which offenders are allowed into the rehabilitation program and which are sent to prison.

Former La. police officer indicted in Taser death

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A former police officer accused of repeatedly jolting a handcuffed man with a Taser before he died was indicted on a manslaughter charge Wednesday by a grand jury in central Louisiana. The Winn Parish grand jury also indicted former Winnfield police officer Scott Nugent on a charge of malfeasance in office stemming from the Jan. 17 death of Baron Pikes, 21. Pikes was shocked nine times with a 50,000-volt Taser as he was arrested on a drug possession warrant in January, authorities said. Winn Parish District Attorney Chris Nevils said Nugent broke the law when he "unnecessarily" used the Taser on Pikes multiple times and failed to get him medical attention "when it was apparent he needed it."

White Americans no longer a majority by 2042

WASHINGTON (AP)—White people will no longer make up a majority of Americans by 2042, according to new government projections. That's eight years sooner than previous estimates, made in 2004.

The nation has been growing more diverse for decades, but the process has sped up through immigration and higher birth rates among minority residents, especially Hispanics.

It is also growing older.

"The white population is older and very much centered around the aging baby boomers who are well past their high fertility years," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "The future of America is epitomized by the young people today. They are basically the melting pot we are going to see in the future."

The Census Bureau Thursday released population projections through 2050, based on rates for births, deaths and immigration. They are subject to big revisions, depending on immigration policy, cultural changes and natural or man-made disasters.

The U.S. has nearly 305 million people today. The population is projected to hit 400 million in 2039 and 439 million in 2050.

That's like adding all the people from France and Britain, said Steve A. Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington group that advocates tighter immigration policies.

White non-Hispanics make up about two-thirds of the population, but only 55 percent of those younger than 5.

By 2050, whites will make up 46 percent of the population and blacks will make up 15 percent, a relatively small increase from today. Hispanics, who make up about 15 percent of the population today, will account for 30 percent in 2050, according to the new projections.

Asians, which make up about 5 percent of the population, are projected to increase to 9 percent by 2050.

World's tallest woman dies in Indiana at age 53

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A woman who grew to be 7 feet, 7 inches tall and was recognized as the world's tallest female died early Wednesday, a friend said. She was 53.

Sandy Allen, whose used her height to inspire schoolchildren to accept those who are different, died at a nursing home in her hometown of Shelbyville, family friend Rita Rose said.

The cause of death was not yet known. Allen had been hospitalized in recent months as she suffered from a recurring blood infection, along with diabetes, breathing troubles and kidney failure, Rose said.

In London, Guinness World Records spokesman Damian Field confirmed Wednesday that Allen was still listed as the tallest woman. Some Web sites cite a 7-foot-9 woman from China. Coincidentally, Allen lived in the same nursing home, Heritage House Convalescent Center, as 115-year-old Edna Parker, whom Guinness has recognized as the world's oldest person since August 2007.

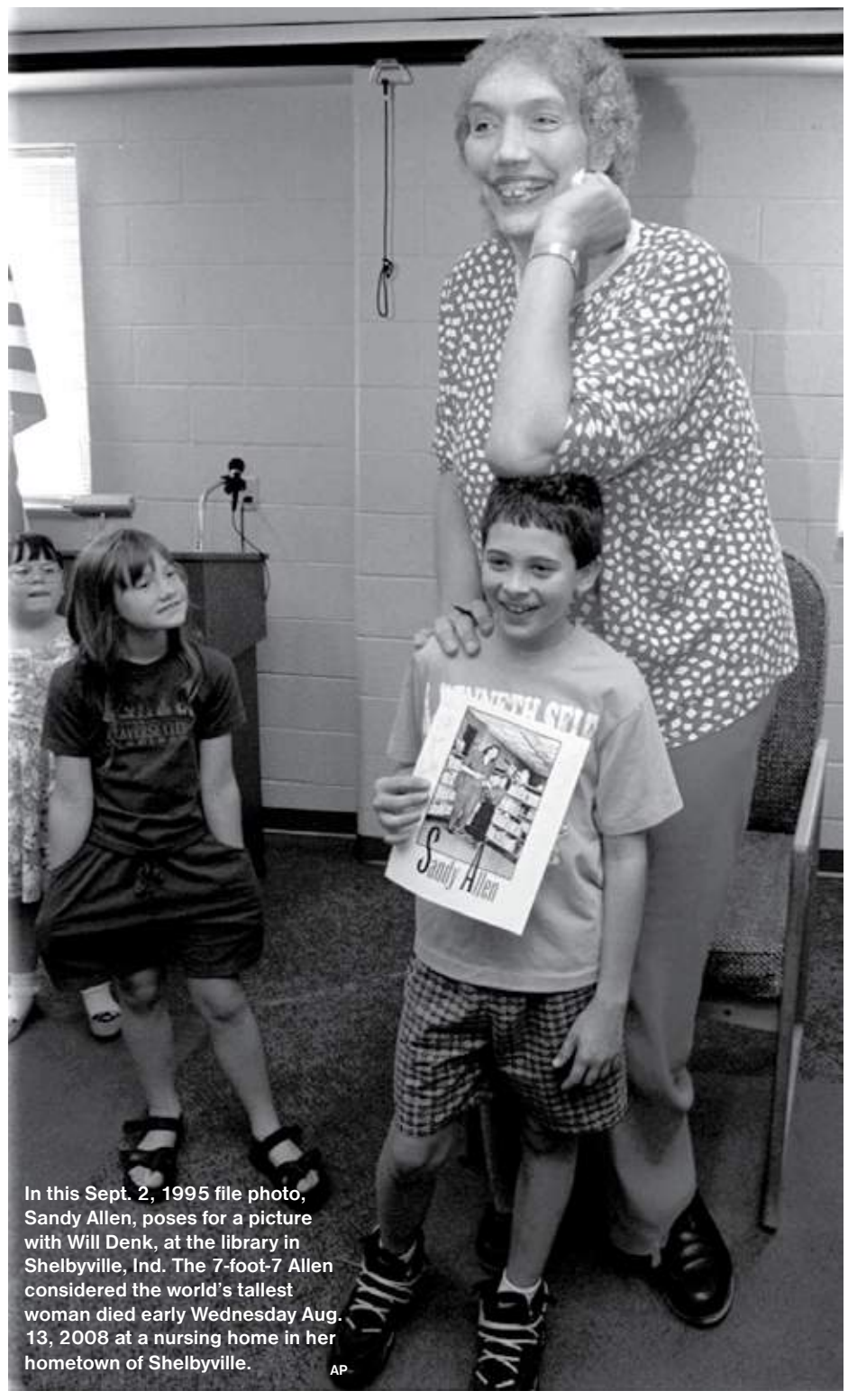
Allen said a tumor caused her pituitary gland to produce too much growth hormone. She underwent an operation in 1977 to stop further growth.

But she was proud of her height, Rose said. "She embraced it," she said. "She used it as a tool to educate people."

Allen appeared on television shows and spoke to church and school groups to bring youngsters her message that it was all right to be different.

Allen weighed 6-1/2 pounds when she was born in June 1955. By the age of 10 she had grown to be 6-foot-3, and by age 16 she was 7-1.

She wrote to Guinness World Records in 1974, saying she would like to get to know someone her own height.



In this Sept. 2, 1995 file photo, Sandy Allen, poses for a picture with Will Denk, at the library in Shelbyville, Ind. The 7-foot-7 Allen considered the world's tallest woman died early Wednesday Aug. 13, 2008 at a nursing home in her hometown of Shelbyville. AP

Child killer's death penalty hearing set to begin

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—As a jury hears prosecutors explain why he should be put to death for killing four members of a family and kidnapping a fifth, a convicted pedophile may offer no substantial counter-argument for why he should live.

Joseph Edward Duncan III is representing himself at his death penalty hearing, joining federal prosecutors Wednesday morning in choosing six men and nine women for the 12-member jury and three alternates. Duncan's standby legal counsel, Judy Clarke, has said Duncan doesn't plan to offer any mitigation, such as evidence of his own traumatic childhood.

Opening arguments were set to begin Wednesday afternoon.

Duncan isn't new to the legal system. His past is littered with arrests and prison time for crimes ranging from car theft to rape and molestation. He is suspected in the 1996 slayings of two half-sisters from Seattle, and is charged with the 1997 killing of a young boy in Riverside County, Calif.

In 2005, he came to Idaho. He stalked a family and then entered their Coeur d'Alene home, murdering 13-year-old Slade Groene, his mother, Brenda Groene, and her fiance, Mark McKenzie. Then he kidnapped the two youngest, 9-year-old Dylan Groene and then-8-year-old Shasta Groene. He pleaded guilty to those murders in state court in 2006, and in January 2007 the federal government charged him with 10 felonies for the trauma he inflicted on Dylan and Shasta. They were threatened, sexually abused and tortured in the remote Montana wilderness, where Dylan was killed, according to court documents. Then he packed up Shasta and returned to Coeur d'Alene, stopping in the middle of the night for a meal at a Denny's restaurant, where a waitress recognized Shasta and called police.

Passengers back Osteen, say they saw no assault

HOUSTON (AP)—Three airline passengers testified Wednesday they never saw or heard any indication that the wife of megachurch evangelist Joel Osteen assaulted a flight attendant in 2005.

Continental Airlines flight attendant Sharon Brown claims in her lawsuit that Victoria Osteen yelled at her, threw her against a bathroom door and elbowed her when a spill on the armrest of her first-class seat wasn't quickly cleaned up. Brown claims she suffered physical and psychological injuries.

However, three first-class passengers on the plane testified Wednesday that they never saw or heard anything to indicate that Victoria Osteen assaulted Brown before the start of the flight from Houston to Vail, Colo.

"There wasn't anything that occurred that she could be suing over," said Laura Knoppe, who was sitting in the first row of first-class seats, closest to where Brown said the attack took place

Knoppe, who was called by Victoria Osteen's attorney, Rusty Hardin, said she never heard Osteen yelling or screaming.

Another passenger, Barbara Shedden, who had been called by Brown's attorney, described the interaction between Brown and Victoria Osteen as "just a power of the wills. It was very authoritative on both parts." Shedden said Victoria Osteen was out of line by standing in the aisle while she waited for the spill to be cleaned up, but testified she doubted an attack took place.

Asia

China: Attacks may be linked to terror groups

URUMQI, China (AP)—China said Wednesday that some evidence suggests terrorist groups may have been involved in a series of attacks in the Muslim territory of Xinjiang, far from the Olympics in Beijing.

Since the assaults began nine days ago, killing 31 people, authorities have been playing down the possible connection with terror groups that may be operating in Xinjiang, a sprawling region of deserts and mountains bordering eight Central Asian nations.

State-run media reports have described the attackers as terrorists, but most officials have said it was to early to determine whether they were connected to militant groups. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told reporters Wednesday in Beijing, "As to whether the recent violent attacks have any links with terrorist forces, there is evidence to indicate that East Turkestan forces may be behind these events."

Militant groups that seek to split Xinjiang—one-sixth of the nation's territory—from China often use the term "East Turkestan." Uighurs and Kazaks—ethnic minorities who live in Xinjiang—declared a short-lived East Turkestan Republic during the chaos of the last years of World War II.

Qin did not elaborate on what evidence might link the attackers to terror groups. But other officials have said some of the weapons used in the attacks were similar to those found in raids last year on a training base of a group called the East Turkestan Islamic Movement.

However, some analysts were skeptical about the claims that terror groups were involved.

Yitzhak Shichor, a political scientist at the University of Haifa in Israel, said China effectively crushed the terror networks within its borders in a crackdown that began in the 1990s.

The recent assaults "are not the kind of coordinated terror attacks that are being orchestrated by some kind of organization inside or outside of China," Shichor said. "It seems like individual acts of revenge."

So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The wave of violence began on Aug. 4 in the ancient Silk Road city of Kashgar, near the border with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Two men stole a truck and rammed it into a group of police on their morning jog. The men continued attacking with homemade bombs and knives, killing 16 police.

Chinese defend Olympic lip-synch at ceremony

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials defended their decision to pass off the voice of a 7-year-old songbird as that of another girl at the Olympic opening ceremony, calling it a simple casting choice. Critics said it was a step too far in China's obsession with the perfect Olympic Games.

Yang Peiyi

Beijing organizers of the games faced tough criticism Wednesday after a whistleblower revealed that the 9-year-old who performed a song during the spectacular opening ceremony was lip-synching to another girl's vocal track.

Yang Peiyi, a 7-year-old with bright eyes and a smile made crooked by the stubs of her first grown-up teeth, was heard by an audience estimated in the billions during Friday night's ceremony, singing "Ode to the Motherland."

But they never saw her face.

Organizers passed the song off as being sung by Lin Miaoke, another perky schoolgirl who donned a sparkly red dress and soared on wires above the 91,000-strong crowd at the Bird's Nest stadium.

Beijing officials on Wednesday defended the decision to use both girls, saying the artistic directors could cast whoever they saw fit. And they were unapologetic about keeping the lip-synch a secret.

"There were a number of candidates to sing that song and at the end of the day the artistic directors picked the best voice and the best performer," Beijing organizing committee spokesman Sun Weide said.

Wang Wei, executive vice president of the organizing committee, said the job of the ceremony's directors was "to achieve the most theatrical effect." "I don't see there is anything wrong with it if everybody concerned agrees," he said.

But the world's press ridiculed the move on front pages from Romania to Australia.

"The counterfeit Games: designed to look good from every angle," said a headline in The Times of London. The Daily Telegraph urged organizers of the 2012 London Games to "bring some sanity and proportion back to both the opening ceremony and the games themselves."

In Spain, one newspaper called it "Olympic karaoke." A commentator for The Age newspaper in Australia called it "the great Beijing lip-synch switcheroo" and news on the incident was headlined "China's wrong child policy." The Romanian daily 7Plus ran this on its front page: "Hoax! Made in China."

Baltimore Sun reporter Jill Rosen said the switch was hardly the first case of lip-synching, but was "possibly the cruelest."

New York Magazine called on record executives to give Peiyi a record deal, saying "She's 7! She has buckteeth! She is adorable!"

The Chinese leadership consider the Beijing Olympics a matter of national prestige and the opening extravaganza, attended by a host of leaders including President Bush, was intended to wow the world.

"Our president may have gone there just to watch the games. The Chinese leadership does not take that view," said Andrew Nathan, political science department chairman at Columbia University. "They want to send a message ... the message of flawless execution."

20 die in building collapse

MUMBAI, India (AP)—A five-story building in a crowded residential neighborhood of India's main financial city collapsed Wednesday after monsoon rains, killing at least 20 people.

Rescue workers struggled through narrow lanes and torrential rain to reach the dilapidated building, reduced to mounds of concrete beams and smashed wooden furniture, police and firefighters said.

"There was a loud sound like a cracker and we heard yelling, that's when we rushed out," said Garima Niwaz, a 22-year-old housewife who stood by the site cradling her young son. "No one was sure what had happened for some minutes till we saw the back portion of the house had fallen in," she said.

At least 21 other people were injured in the accident, police said.

"There could be more people trapped under the debris," said police officer Dheeraj Chauhan, adding that torrential rains were hampering rescue efforts.

Police said 11 people died in the wreckage while nine others who were critically injured died later in hospitals.

Heavy monsoon rainfall and shoddy building construction are often blamed for building collapses in Mumbai.

Missiles kill nine in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A missile strike in a Pakistani tribal region killed at least nine suspected insurgents including foreigners, officials said Wednesday, raising suspicion that the U.S. was again targeting militants in Pakistan.

A spokesman for the U.S. military denied it was behind the four missiles that struck the compound late Tuesday in a remote and mountainous area near Angore Adda in South Waziristan. However, past strikes are believed to have been conducted by the CIA using Predator drones.

The tribal regions are considered havens for al-Qaida and Taliban-linked militants who plot and stage attacks on U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, and the U.S. has repeatedly urged Pakistan to bring those areas under control. The missile strikes, however, have strained ties between Washington and Islamabad.

A Pakistan military official told The Associated Press that at least nine people died in the latest strike. Two Pakistan intelligence officials said between 22 and 25 people died—including Arabs, Turkmen and Pakistani militants—in the strike, which was apparently launched from Afghanistan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban ambush kills 3 more Western aid workers

PUL-E-ALAM, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban fighters with assault rifles shredded a U.S. aid group's SUV with dozens of bullets Wednesday, killing three Western women and their Afghan driver amid an escalating militant onslaught against humanitarian workers in Afghanistan. The group whose workers were slain, the New York-based International Rescue Committee, announced it was suspending its Afghan humanitarian programs indefinitely. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the killings, saying its fighters attacked two vehicles of "the foreign invader forces." The aid group identified the women killed in Logar province as Nicole Dial, 30, a dual Trinidadian-American citizen; Jacqueline (Jackie) Kirk, 40, of Outrement, Quebec; and Shirley Case, 30, of Williams Lake, British Columbia. The 25-year-old driver, Mohammad Aimal, was from Kabul and had worked for the aid group since 2002.

Kashmir protests spread to Indian cities

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police jeeps drove through the deserted streets of a town in Indian Kashmir on Wednesday blaring warnings from loudspeakers that residents would be shot if they broke a curfew imposed after 16 people were killed in the riots that have rocked the restive Himalayan region. The violence, which has roiled Kashmir since June 23 when Muslims and Hindus began a series of protests over a plan to transfer land to a Hindu shrine in India's only Muslim-majority state, also spread to other parts of India. The extreme measures in Kishtwar town come a day after tens of thousands violated the blanket curfew to attend the funeral of a prominent separatist leader shot by police. Kishtwar is some 155 miles north of Jammu, the region's only majority Hindu city.

Bomb defused in southern RP province

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops defused a powerful homemade bomb at a southern bus terminal Thursday and a military spokesman said it may have been planted by Muslim rebels in retaliation for a recent government offensive. The explosive, made of 4.5 pounds (2 kilograms) of TNT, a 60-milimeter mortar round, nails and a cell phone as a trigger, was discovered with the help of bomb-sniffing dogs at the Kidapawan terminal's garbage collection area in North Cotabato province, regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico said. He said the military believes it was "part of the retaliation effort" of Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas after they withdrew Tuesday from 15 predominantly Christian villages in the province following a three-day military offensive.

8 activists detained after Olympics protest

BEIJING (AP)—Police detained eight foreign activists and a British journalist attempting to cover their protest, as the latest in a series of demonstrations spurred jumpiness about dissent during the Olympics. Seven of the activists were Americans; the eighth was a half-Tibetan woman with Japanese citizenship, said Lhadon Tethong, executive director of Students for a Free Tibet, the group that organized the protest. John Ray of London-based ITV News said he was detained as he rushed to the Chinese Ethnic Culture Park, south of the main Olympic stadium, where two protesters were blocking the main entrance and unfurling a "Free Tibet" banner on a park bridge. Five other activists blocked the entrance of the park, which features a Tibet-related exhibit, and handcuffed themselves to each other and to bicycles around them. A sixth protester explained the reason for the demonstration, Tethong said.

World

Russia defies truce with Georgia; US sending aid

OUTSIDE GORI, Georgia (AP)—A Russian military convoy defied a cease-fire agreement Wednesday and rolled through a strategically important city in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, which claimed fresh looting and bombing by the Russians and their allies.

President Bush said a massive U.S. aid package was on the way for tens of thousands uprooted in the conflict and demanded Russia "keep its word and act to end this crisis." "The United States stands with the democratically elected government of Georgia and insists that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia be respected," Bush said sternly in Washington.

One day after the Kremlin and its smaller neighbor agreed to a French-brokered cease-fire to end the dispute over two pro-Russian breakaway territories, the pact appeared fragile at best.

An Associated Press reporter saw dozens of Russian trucks and armored vehicles leaving the city of Gori, some 20 miles south of the separatist region of South Ossetia and home of a key highway that divides Georgia in two, and moving deeper into Georgia.

Soldiers waved at journalists and one jokingly shouted, "Come with us, beauty, we're going to Tbilisi." The convoy roared southeast, toward the Georgian capital, but then turned north and set up camp about an hour's drive away from it.

A Russian military convoy moves past a horse-drawn cart with local residents, outside Gori, Georgia, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008.
AP

Georgian officials said the Russians had looted and bombed Gori before they left. Moscow denied the accusation, but it appeared to be on a technicality: A BBC reporter in Gori said Russian tanks were in the streets while their South Ossetian allies seized cars, looted homes and set houses on fire.

As confusion reigned on the first day of the cease-fire agreement, Bush called a Rose Garden speech to express concern about reports the Russians were already breaking it.

He said he was sending Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice first to France and then to Tbilisi to reinforce U.S. efforts to "rally the world in defense of a free Georgia." For her part, Rice said: "This is not 1968 and the invasion of Czechoslovakia where Russia can threaten a neighbor, occupy a capital, overthrow a government and get away with it. Things have changed."

The president said a huge U.S. aid effort was under way, including American naval forces and C-17 military cargo planes, to get clothes, blankets, medicine and other supplies to refugees.

West warns Russia over military push into Georgia

LONDON (AP)—The West is threatening to revoke Russia's membership in an elite Group of Eight nations club as punishment for the military incursion into the former Soviet republic of Georgia. Three countries have already pulled out of a joint military exercise with Russian forces that began in an era of cooperation after the Cold War.

But how far will the West go, and how much do both sides stand to lose? And who is the West in the post Soviet-era?

Britain and the United States hinted Wednesday that Russia could be expelled from the G-8 club of industrialized nations and other international institutions for its actions in Georgia, subtle threats that have been backed by Latvia and Poland. But Italy, Germany and France—which holds the rotating EU presidency—have been reluctant to take sides, underscoring past divisions of the Cold War era and highlighting a deepening rift in the 27-nation European Union.

The threats have done little to fluster Russia, which continued to push through the Georgian territory of Ossetia on Wednesday despite assurances that it had halted its military operations in a cease-fire agreement. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Russia had gone too far. Britain, France and the U.S. pulled out of a major naval exercise in the North Pacific with Russia scheduled to begin Friday.

Al-Qaida ally suspected as bomb kills 18 Lebanese

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AP)—A roadside bomb packed with nuts and bolts exploded near a bus in this northern city Wednesday, killing 18 soldiers and civilians in Lebanon's deadliest bombing in more than three years.

Many suspected the attack was staged by an al-Qaida-inspired group to avenge a 2007 military offensive. Some questioned whether it was an attempt to disrupt a trip by Lebanese President Michel Suleiman to Syria later in the day to patch up relations between the neighboring nations.

That visit brought a key agreement for the two countries to establish full diplomatic relations for the first time, a move that could ease tensions that have fueled Lebanon's turmoil

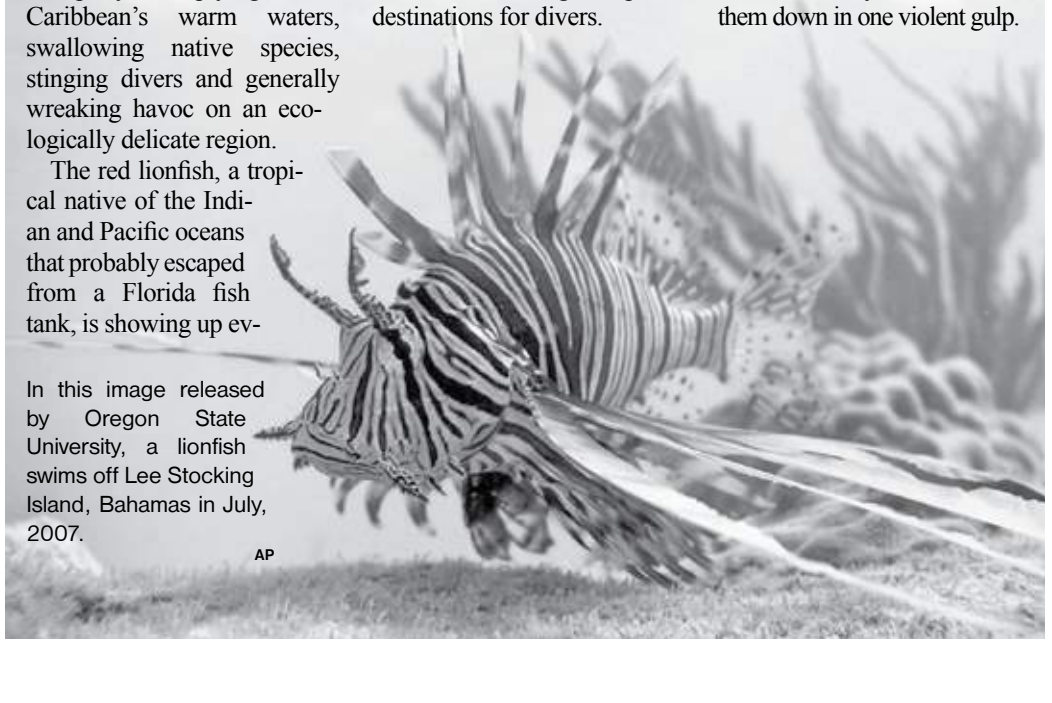
On Tuesday, the Lebanese parliament approved a new national unity government in Beirut that groups pro-Western factions and Syria's ally, the Hezbollah militant group—another step that Lebanese hope will move the country past three years of political crisis. But the attack in Lebanon's second largest city cast a shadow over political progress.

Venomous lionfish prowls fragile Caribbean waters

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A maroon-striped marauder with venomous spikes is rapidly multiplying in the Caribbean's warm waters, swallowing native species, stinging divers and generally wreaking havoc on an ecologically delicate region.

The red lionfish, a tropical native of the Indian and Pacific oceans that probably escaped from a Florida fish tank, is showing up everywhere—from the coasts of Cuba and Hispaniola to Little Cayman's pristine Bloody Bay Wall, one of the region's prime destinations for divers.

Wherever it appears, the adaptable predator corners fish and crustaceans up to half its size with its billowy fins and sucks them down in one violent gulp.



In this image released by Oregon State University, a lionfish swims off Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas in July, 2007.
AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Majority of Mauritania parliament is pro-coup

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)—More than two-thirds of lawmakers in Mauritania's parliament signed a declaration Wednesday favoring last week's army-led coup, contrasting sharply with the international condemnation of the political upheaval. The declaration asked world governments to recognize the new military-run regime that ousted the African nation's democratically elected president. The coup prompted the U.S. to cut off more than $20 million in aid. France also has frozen aid to Mauritania, and the European Union has threatened to cut off aid. The African Union suspended Mauritania from the 53-nation body because of the military takeover.

UN unveils plans to step up efforts in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Five years after bombings forced the United Nations to pull out of Iraq, the world body is back. It announced plans Wednesday to help Iraq rebuild and create jobs following complaints the government has been unable or unwilling to spend its oil riches. An agreement signed by the U.N. and the Iraqi government outlined a series of steps to help the Iraqis improve spending. The U.N. will also aid in the funding of reconstruction, development and humanitarian projects. With a budget of $2.2 billion through 2010, the U.N. hopes to use its know-how to train Iraqi bureaucrats and create incentives to develop the country's private sector. One of the main goals is to create jobs in a country where widespread unemployment especially in areas outside of Baghdad could undermine recent security gains if young men lose hope in their futures and turn to extremism.

Syria, Lebanon agree to establish diplomatic ties

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syria and Lebanon agreed Wednesday to establish full diplomatic relations for the first time, taking a step toward healing tensions that have fueled decades of turmoil in Lebanon Many Lebanese had long seen Damascus' refusal of ties as proof it had not given up claims that its smaller neighbor is part of Syrian territory and still aimed to dominate Lebanon. The deal is a significant symbolic victory for them, acknowledging Lebanon as an independent state. Syria, however, only agreed to relations after its influence in Lebanon was guaranteed by the creation on Tuesday of a unity government in Beirut that gives Damascus-allied Hezbollah a strong say in Lebanese decision-making.

Jewish leaders seek improved ties with Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez met with Jewish leaders on Wednesday, pledging to work together against anti-Semitism and open up channels of communication despite differences on Mideast politics. Both Chavez and leaders of the World Jewish Congress called the meeting a success. "There may be some differences of opinion on some issues—on major issues such as Iran and also the Middle East," Michael Schneider, the organization's secretary-general, said after the meeting. "But when it comes to anti-Semitism, I think we're on the same page." "We mentioned our concerns about anti-Semitism and asked him what his position was," Schneider said. "And he said he was certainly not an anti-Semite."

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

SC bear back at animal refuge after 'cubnapping'

WELLFORD, S.C. (AP)—A stolen bear cub is back with his brother at a South Carolina animal park after being snatched and put on display at a truck stop. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reports that 31-year-old John Chadwick Montgomery was charged Tuesday with third-degree burglary and grand larceny. Authorities say Montgomery took the 7-month-old cub from the Hollywild Animal Park on Saturday night. Workers say he planned to take a monkey but opted for the bear after another monkey attacked him. Montgomery took the bear to a truck stop and charged people $1 each to pet the animal. The bear was returned to the park unharmed.

Man to sell truck with more than 1 million miles

CATAWBA, Wis. (AP)—The owner of a 1991 Chevrolet Silverado that's traveled more than 1 million miles is parting with what he affectionately calls his "old girl." Frank Oresnik said his pickup with 1.03 million miles goes on sale on eBay on Thursday night. The minimum bid is $30,000 and the auction continues for 10 days. The 58-year-old northern Wisconsin man says he wants his pickup to go to someone who can display it because it is so unique. He hopes it sells for more than $100,000. Oresnik attracted national attention in February when he reached the 1 million mile mark while doing a live interview on National Public Radio. He says the truck has had four radiators, three gas tanks and five transmissions but the engine is still original.

Cocaine found hidden in Providence, RI, police car

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Police in Providence, R.I., say an unmarked car that officers had been driving for several years came with a surprise—a half-pound of cocaine hidden behind the radio. Deputy Police Chief Paul Kennedy says the Ford Taurus was confiscated from a drug dealer in 2000. Kennedy says police do search for contraband in confiscated vehicles but sometimes they "miss stuff." Three packages of cocaine were found behind the dashboard about three weeks ago by a repairman who was cannibalizing the car for spare parts. Police estimated the stash would be worth almost $7,000 on the street.

Man accused of stealing ambulance outside hospital

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Police have charged a suburban Philadelphia man with swiping an ambulance from outside a hospital. Authorities say the crew of the Lafayette Ambulance & Rescue squad was in Montgomery Hospital in Norristown dropping off a patient about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday when someone drove off with the ambulance. About 7:30 p.m., state police spotted the vehicle westbound on Interstate 76, the Schuylkill Expressway, and pulled it over at the Route 202 exit in Upper Merion Township. Police say they charged the man driving the ambulance, 22-year-old Justin Janaitis, of Norristown, with receiving stolen property and driving under the influence.

Ohio man buys new truck with thousands of coins

CINCINNATI (AP)—An Ohio man who says he doesn't trust paper money has delivered enough coins to cover half the price of a brand new pickup truck. Employees at a dealership in the Cincinnati suburb of Springdale say 70-year-old James Jones plunked down 16 coffee cans full of coins Tuesday for a new Chevrolet Silverado. Salesman David Crisswell says employees spent 90 minutes counting the collection of dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollar coins, which covered half the $16,000 price of the pickup. Jones and his wife, Betty, wrote a check for the other half of the cost. Jones' son says his dad has always preferred to pay with coins. Dennis Jones says he's most amazed that his penny-pinching father decided to replace his 1981 pickup, which struck his father when its parking brake failed last year, putting him in a hospital.

Erie Zoo's tiger a shy guy, won't explore exhibit

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—Officials at the Erie Zoo say one of their new Amur tigers is too shy to explore a new $500,000 exhibit. Nikki, a 370-pound male tiger, has refused to come out of his den into the public exhibit since it opened two months ago. "He pokes his head out occasionally, but that's about it," said Scott Mitchell, the zoo's chief executive. Anna, a 300-pound female, regularly prowls the new space. The gate to Nikki's den is closed when Anna is there because they have yet to meet. For now, officials are hoping the scent she leaves behind during her visits will entice Nikki into exploring the new exhibit alone.

Forklift helps 700-lb Mexican man take rare outing

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—A 700-pound (310-kilogram) man once considered the world's most obese person left his home for the first time in five months Sunday with the aid of a forklift and a platform truck.

Manuel Uribe traveled to the shore of a lake in northern Mexico without ever leaving his specially designed bed. A forklift hoisted the bed onto the truck, which then hauled him to the lake, where he snacked on fish and vegetables and joked with a local boat operator.

Looking at the boatman's small craft, Uribe joked, "Too bad I can't get on it - it would sink."

Once considered the world's fattest man when his weight hit over half a ton, more than two years of steady dieting had helped Uribe drop to about 700 pounds (310 kilograms) as of June - 550 pounds (250 kilograms) less than his former Guinness record weight of 1,235 pounds (560 kilograms). He did not say what his current weight is.

While somewhat bothered by the summer heat, Uribe appeared to enjoy Sunday's outing. He is still unable to walk, and his last planned outing in March was aborted after the platform carrying his bed got stuck under an overpass.

His last successful trip outside his home was in March 2007, when six people pushed Uribe's wheel-equipped iron bed out to the street as a mariachi band played and a crowd gathered to greet him.

Before that, he hadn't left his home in five years.

AP

Manuel Uribe, better known as "Meme", right, who weights around 310 kilograms (700 pounds) is carried on a trailer holding his specially designed bed on a trip to a lake in Monterrey, northern Mexico, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008.

Ohio Burger King worker fired for bathing in sink

XENIA, Ohio (AP)—Burger King Corp. said Tuesday it had parted ways with an employee who was recorded taking a soapy bath in a utility sink in one of its restaurants in a video that ended up on his MySpace page.

The nearly four-minute video, which was posted online Thursday, shows the man taking the bath to celebrate his birthday. In the video, shot by another worker, the employee refers to himself only as "Mr. Unstable" and appears to be naked.

Timothy Tackett, 25, told WDTN-TV in Dayton that he is the sink-bather and that he made the video for his MySpace page. The video had been removed by Tuesday night.

Tackett said he regretted taking the bath because it led to the firing of the employee who did the recording, as well as the restaurant's shift manager.

Burger King spokeswoman Denise Wilson said earlier Tuesday that two employees involved in the incident were fired and a third quit. She declined to identify the employees or say whether the man who took the bath quit or was fired. Tackett said he was fired.

A message left by The Associated Press for a Timothy Tackett in Centerburg was not immediately returned.

Greene County Health Commissioner Mark McDonnell said he dispatched an inspector to the restaurant, but workers had already sterilized the sink, which is used to clean large pieces of equipment.

Fake coyotes don't fool the fowl, but motorists

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP)—Phony coyotes set up to discourage ducks and geese from gobbling up seeds and fresh shoots from wetlands plants didn't fool the fowl, but humans were another matter. Hammond Port Authority Director Milan Kruszynski said his office has fielded several calls from passing motorists who mistook the two-dimensional cutouts on islands in Wolf Lake for dogs.

"We've been getting calls from neighbors and people driving by, 'There's a dog trapped on the island!'" Kruszynski said.

Kruszynski said he has also been contacted by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and a city official who was taken out by boat to inspect the decoys. He didn't identify the official.

The decoys were placed on the islands beginning about two years ago by an Army Corps of Engineers contractor to help scare off ducks and geese that otherwise might harm wetlands plantings. The geese generally uncover the ruse within a few weeks, the Post-Tribune of Merrillville reported Tuesday in a story on its Web site.

"The geese are very wary of them, then eventually they figure it out," said Jon Dittmar, a spokesman for contractor J.F. New. "They're very striking when you first come upon them. I could see how it would be for someone driving by at 70 miles per hour."

Meanwhile, the wetlands plants on the islands have reached the point where they can thrive without the decoys' protection, so the coyotes soon will be removed, Dittmar said.

"They don't seem to be doing any good anymore and it appears they are upsetting some people," he said.

Man on Harley finds engagement ring on road

WEST HAVEN, Utah (AP)—The wedding is on. A 23-year-old man who left an engagement ring on the hood of a car went from extremely unlucky to lucky when another man riding a Harley-Davidson noticed a little black jewelry box in the middle of the road.

"I never thought we'd see that ring again," said Karen Jones, whose son Tyler forgot he had put the $3,000 diamond ring on his girlfriend's car.

After some frantic days, turning the house upside-down looking for the ring, the Jones family had just about given up hope. They placed a classified ad in the Standard-Examiner, knowing the chances of anybody seeing it - or wanting to give back a diamond ring - were slim.

What they didn't know was that Monte Kirk had found the ring as he was riding his Harley one day.

"I opened the box and found a diamond ring inside," he said. "You don't find that every day."

Kirk took the ring home to his wife, Debbie, and she said they would watch the newspaper for anyone missing a ring. Jones waited all week and decided to still propose to Amanda Anderson - with or without the original diamond. He decided to buy another ring Saturday afternoon and be more careful with this one.

However, Kirk and his wife had noticed the ad and were trying to reach Jones and tell him. When Kirk finally got through, he said Karen Jones answered.

"She was so happy," Kirk said. "Her son works two jobs and was going to propose that very day."

Kirk asked Karen to describe the ring in detail to make sure it was the right one. When he was sure it was the same ring, Kirk and his wife hopped on the Harley and met Karen Jones at a nearby store.

"He suddenly brought out the ring from behind his back, and I just started bawling," she said. "I asked him to follow me over to the bank to give him the ($100) reward. He wouldn't accept the reward, though."

Science & Technology

Hackers mull physical attacks on networked world

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Want to break into the computer network in an ultra-secure building? Ship a hacked iPhone there to a nonexistent employee and hope the device sits in the mailroom, scanning for nearby wireless connections.

How about stealing someone's computer passwords? Forget trying to fool the person into downloading a malicious program that logs keystrokes. A tiny microphone hidden near the keyboard could do the same thing, since each keystroke emits slightly different sounds that can be used to reconstruct the words the target is typing.

Hackers at the DefCon conference here were demonstrating these and other novel techniques for infiltrating facilities Friday. Their talks served as a reminder of the danger of physical attacks as a way to breach hard-to-crack computer networks. It's an area once defined by Dumpster diving and crude social-engineering ruses, like phony phone calls, that are probably easier to detect or avoid.

As technology gets cheaper and more powerful, from cell phones that act as personal computers to minuscule digital bugging devices, it's enabling a new wave of clever attacks that, if pulled off properly, can be as effective and less risky for thieves than traditional computer-intrusion tactics.

Consider Apple Inc.'s iPhone, a gadget whose processing horsepower and cellular and wireless Internet connections make it an ideal double agent.

Robert Graham and David Maynor, co-founders of Atlanta-based Errata Security, showed off an experiment in which they modified an iPhone and sent it to a client company that wanted to test the security of its internal wireless network.

Graham and Maynor programmed the phone to check in with their computers over the cellular network. Once inside the target company and connected, a program they had written scanned the wireless network for security holes.

They didn't find any, but the exercise demonstrated an inexpensive way to perform penetration testing and the danger of unexpected devices being used in attacks. If they had found an unsecured router in their canvassing, they likely would have been able to waltz inside the corporate network to steal data.

To keep the phone running, the researchers latched on an extended-life battery that lasts days on end. But they only really need a few minutes inside a building to test the network's security.

"It's like saying, once you get into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory, and you're in the garden where everything's edible, you have it all," Graham said in an interview. The attack won't work, of course, if a company's wireless network is properly secured. In that case, Graham and Maynor said there's likely no big loss: the package that had been sitting in the mailroom would probably be mailed back to them so they could try it again elsewhere.

Another talk focused on new twists to Cold War-era espionage tactics that could allow criminals to sidestep the locks on computer networks.

Poof! Scientists closer to invisibility cloak

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists say they are a step closer to developing materials that could render people and objects invisible.

Researchers have demonstrated for the first time they were able to cloak three-dimensional objects using artificially engineered materials that redirect light around the objects. Previously, they only have been able to cloak very thin two-dimensional objects.

The findings, by scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, led by Xiang Zhang, are to be released later this week in the journals Nature and Science.

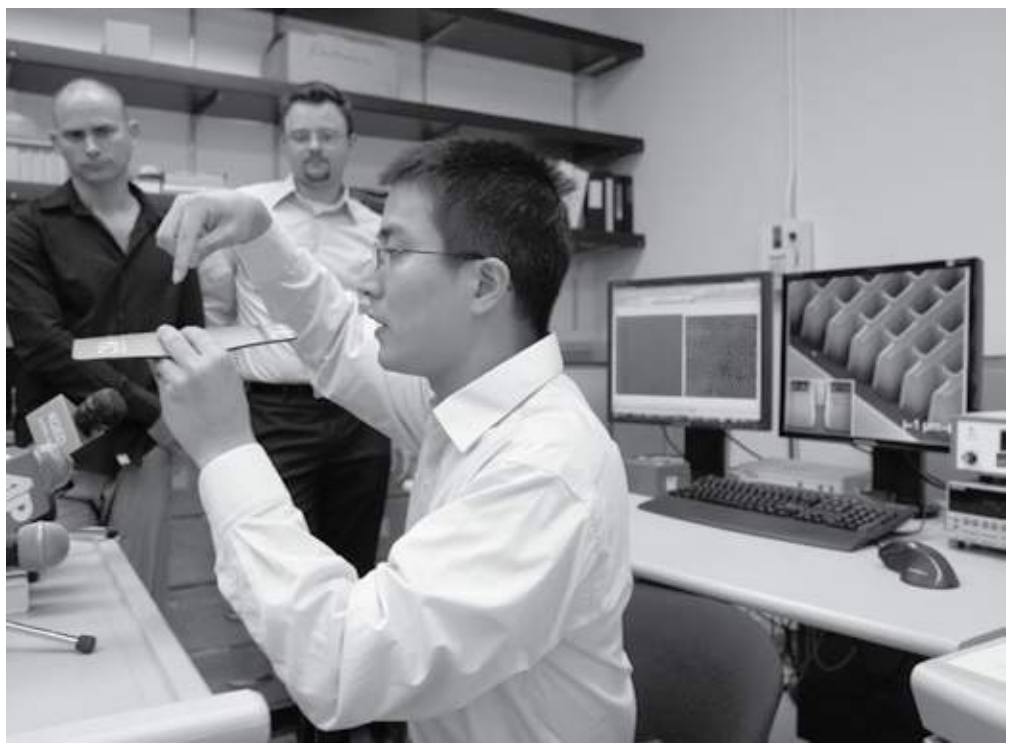
The new work moves scientists a step closer to hiding people and objects from visible light, which could have broad applications, including military ones.

People can see objects because they scatter the light that strikes them, reflecting some of it back to the eye. Cloaking uses materials, known as metamaterials, to deflect radar, light or other waves around an object, like water flowing around a smooth rock in a stream.

Metamaterials are mixtures of metal and circuit board materials such as ceramic, Teflon or fiber composite. They are designed to bend visible light in a way that ordinary materials don't. Scientists are trying to use them to bend light around objects so they don't create reflections or shadows.

It differs from stealth technology, which does not make an aircraft invisible but reduces the cross-section available to radar, making it hard to track.

The research was funded in part by the U.S. Army Research Office and the National Science Foundation's Nano-Scale Science and Engineering Center.



AP

Jie Yao, right, co-author of a science paper about new materials that can bend light backwards, gives a brief demonstration as co-authors Guy Bartal, left, Jason Valentine, center, look on during a news conference in a laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley in Berkeley, Calif., Monday, Aug. 11, 2008.

Hackers target Google gadgets

LAS VEGAS (AP)—One of the biggest problems with the so-called Web 2.0 movement has been its encouragement of oversharing—which often means underestimating security risks. Adding doodads of varying quality to a home page can add a lot of pizazz, but can also be fraught with danger, since they can open a door for hackers.

It's a threat even for the biggest Web companies, including Google Inc., whose "gadgets"—little programs like calendars or daily photo feeds that users can implant onto their personalized Google home pages - are increasingly juicy targets for hackers, two security researchers said Wednesday.

It's not that Google is designing insecure programs.

The issue is that users building their own customized applications, and distributing them through Google, might have evil intentions and try to exploit those programs once they're installed on users' pages. Many users are inclined to inherently trust what they download from Google.

Robert Hansen, chief executive of security consultant SecTheory, and Tom Stracener, senior security analyst with security testing software maker Cenzic Inc., demonstrated an attack Wednesday at the Black Hat hacker conference in Las Vegas in which they used a malicious gadget to break into a person's Web browser and read their searches in real time.

Malicious gadgets—if a user were to download one of them—could be used in a variety of other attacks, including one where one gadget steals information from another, a valuable attack against gadgets that store personal user information, Hansen and Stracener said.

"How do you know it's a legitimate gadget?" Hansen asked. "Because someone uploaded it? There's no moderation, there's no way to guarantee it won't turn bad."

Google isn't alone.

The company is fighting a common problem facing social-networking Web sites and other sites that encourage users to spruce up their pages with little knickknacks that reach out to the outside world to deliver pictures or other content. The applications run code on the page that can be used for good or evil.

Google disputes Hansen's characterization of its vetting process for gadgets.

The company said in a statement that it scans all gadgets regularly for malicious code, and in the "very rare" instance in which one is found, it's immediately blacklisted.

Google added that since November 2007 no new "inline" gadgets - which have access to user account information - have been created. And the authors of existing "inline" gadgets can't modify them further.

The company defended its program and said gadgets are created by developers from around the world and "provide a convenient way for users to view information collected from around the Web in one place."

Intel's new chip to be called Core i7

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Intel Corp. said Sunday it plans to sell its new generation of chips for desktop computers under the established "Core" brand, with the first chips of the new line to be called Core i7. The microprocessors are based on a design the company has code-named Nehalem and are expected to be in production the last three months of this year. Intel says the new design will deliver both high performance and energy efficiency.

Santa Clara-based Intel indicated that the Core name, already used for other chips including the popular Core 2 Duo processor, will be its flagship PC processor brand.

"Expect Intel to focus even more marketing resources around that name and the Core i7 products starting now," Sean Maloney, general manager of Intel's sales and marketing group, said in a news release.

The first chips in the new family of processors, including an "Extreme Edition" version, will carry an "i7" identifier. The identifier will be the first of several to come as different chips are launched over the next year, Intel said.

Intel is the world's No. 1 maker of microprocessors with about three-quarters of the worldwide market.

New Yahoo service helps users share their location

NEW YORK (AP)—Yahoo Inc. is riding the wave of location-based services with the launch of a service intended to help users share their real-world location with their friends online.

Yahoo made Fire Eagle available to the public this week. Previously, the service had been available in a private "beta" test since March.

After signing up with a Yahoo ID, users can update their physical locations through Fire Eagle's Web site or from a cell phone with Fire Eagle's mobile site. They can then let the service interact with a variety of desktop, Web-based and mobile applications to let people know where they are. Early participants include Dopplr, a site for sharing travel plans, and Pownce, a site for sending messages and files.

Yahoo said Fire Eagle gives users a range of privacy options for applications they use with it, and the site securely stores location information.

Tom Coates, who led the development of Fire Eagle as head of product for Yahoo's startup-like projects unit, Brickhouse, said the platform was developed as a way to make Web sites more geographically aware and personalized.

"Location is an extra thing that can transform every site on the Web," he said.

And since Fire Eagle is an open platform, developers can use it to add location services to applications as well.

So far, Coates has spotted about 50 applications using Fire Eagle, including one that a user built to track himself and another meant to add locations to blog posts.

Coates said Fire Eagle could help generate revenue in the future, but "we're concentrating right now on making it as big as possible and getting the service used."

Researchers work to turn car's exhaust into power

WARREN, Mich. (AP)—The stinky, steaming air that escapes from a car's tailpipe could help us use less gas.

Researchers are competing to meet a challenge from the U.S. Department of Energy: Improve fuel economy 10 percent by converting wasted exhaust heat into energy that can help power the vehicle.

General Motors Corp. is close to reaching the goal, as is a BMW AG supplier working with Ohio State University. Their research into thermoelectrics—the science of using temperature differences to create electricity—couldn't come at a better time as high gas prices accelerate efforts to make vehicles as efficient as possible.

GM researcher Jihui Yang said a metal-plated device that surrounds an exhaust pipe could increase fuel economy in a Chevrolet Suburban by about 5 percent, a 1-mile-per-gallon improvement that would be even greater in a smaller vehicle.

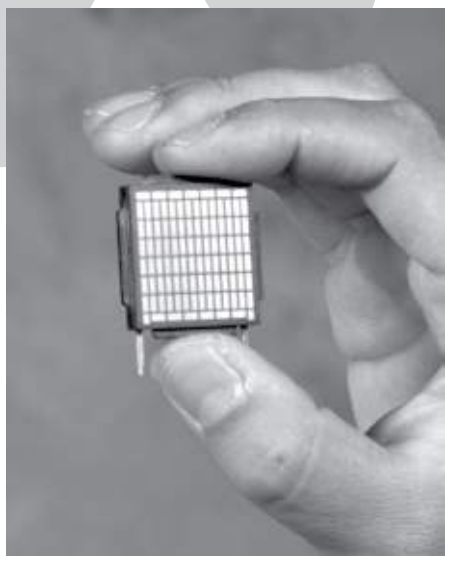
Reaching the goal of a 10 percent improvement would save more than 100 million gallons of fuel per year in GM vehicles in the U.S. alone.

"The take-home message here is: It's a big deal," Yang said.

The DOE, which is partially funding the auto industry research, helped develop a thermoelectric generator for a heavy duty diesel truck and tested it for the equivalent of 550,000 miles about 12 years ago.

John Fairbanks, the department's thermoelectrics technology development manager, said the success of that generator justified the competitive search in 2004 for a device that could augment or replace a vehicle's alternator. Three teams were selected to participate in the program, with GM and thermoelectrics manufacturer BSST separately working on cars and a team from Michigan State University focusing on heavy-duty trucks.

Fairbanks said thermoelectric generators should be on the verge of production in about three years.



AP

In this July 31, 2008 photo released by General Motors, a module for a thermoelectric generator is shown in Warren, Mich.

"It's probably the biggest impact in the shortest time that I can think of," he said.

The technology is similar to what NASA uses to power deep space probes, a perk being it doesn't seem to be susceptible to wear. Probes have used a thermoelectric setup for about 30 years. Thermoelectric devices can work in two ways—using electricity to provide heating or cooling, or using temperature differences to create electricity.

The second method is Yang's focus, and for good reason.

In an internal combustion engine, only about a quarter of the total energy from gasoline is used to actually turn the wheels, while 40 percent is lost in exhaust heat and 30 percent is lost through cooling the engine. That means about 70 percent of the available energy is wasted, according to GM.

"If I can use some of that heat energy and convert it to electricity, you can improve the overall efficiency," Yang said.

A Suburban produces 15 kilowatts of exhaust heat energy during city driving, which is enough to power three or four air conditioners simultaneously.

But it's not possible to harness all the exhaust heat a vehicle produces, so when the Suburban is cruising between 50 and 60 mph, the generator can produce about 800 watts of power, Yang said. That electricity could go to accessories such as a GPS device, DVD player, radio and possibly the vehicle's water pumps.

Yang's prototype device is to be tested in a Suburban next year. A similar prototype created by Ohio State scientists and BSST should be tested in a BMW in 2009.

The thermoelectric generator works when one side of its metallic material is heated, and excited electrons move to the cold side. The movement creates a current, which electrodes collect and convert to electricity.

While it's not clear how much the device would add to the price of a vehicle, the whole point of the research is to make it cost-effective, Yang said.

AP

In this July 31, 2008 photo released by General Motors, a ten-year-old prototype of General Motors thermoelectric generator, which converts exhaust heat into electricity, is shown on a tail pipe in Warren, Mich.

"There are several other steps that are required to commercialize the material, but we're cautiously optimistic that these steps can be carried out successfully," said Lon Bell, president of BSST, a subsidiary of Northville-based thermoelectrics supplier Amerigon Inc.

BSST also is working with Ford Motor Co. to develop climate control systems based on thermoelectrics.

Ford wants a system that would target a person's extremities when it's cold or the back of the neck in summer heat, rather than blow out a lot of air to change the temperature of the entire vehicle.

"We think we can make people feel cooler more quickly, feel comfortable more quickly, and that will translate into less power in the central AC system," said Clay Maranville, a Ford senior research scientist.

Major Internet security flaw also affects e-mail

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A newly discovered flaw in the Internet's core infrastructure not only permits hackers to force people to visit Web sites they didn't want to, it also allows them to intercept e-mail messages, the researcher who discovered the bug said Wednesday.

Considering the silent nature of the attack and the sensitive nature of a lot of electronic correspondence, the potential for damage from this second security flaw is high. But there's no evidence yet that this method of targeting e-mail has been used in a successful attack.

Dan Kaminsky of Seattle-based security consultant IOActive Inc. exposed a giant vulnerability in the Internet's design that, in one case, allowed hackers to reroute some computer users in Texas to a fake Google.com site loaded with automated advertisement-clicking programs, a scam to generate profits for the hackers from those clicks

The flaw wasn't in the site itself, it was in the back-end machines responsible for guiding computers to that site.

The vulnerability Kaminsky found is especially insidious because it allows criminals to tamper with machines whose reliability and trustworthiness is critical for the Internet to function properly. Kaminsky, who spoke Wednesday at the Black Hat hacker conference in Las Vegas, has given few details publicly about the vulnerability he found in the Domain Name System (DNS), a network of servers used to connect computers to Web sites.

He remained tightlipped so that Internet providers would have time to fix their machines. Many have done that, but others have delayed, leaving some people at risk.

Major vendors like Microsoft Corp., Cisco Systems Inc., Sun Microsystems Inc. and others have issued patches - software tweaks that cover the security hole and prevent affected machines from ingesting the bogus information hackers are trying to feed them.

"The industry has rallied like we've never seen the industry rally before," Kaminsky said.

Kaminsky's talk Wednesday at the conference was packed, with people sitting on the floor of the main speaker's hall and overflowing out the back doors. His presentation instantly became one of the Black Hat conference's most anticipated after he announced July 8 that he'd found a major weakness in DNS, a critical part of the Internet's plumbing.

While some details leaked out early - security researchers accurately guessed parts of Kaminsky's discovery - he was able to keep a few juicy bits secret until the talk.

One of those was the susceptibility of many e-mail servers to the DNS vulnerability, an opening that gives criminals a way to plant themselves in the middle of the transmission from the sender to the recipient and redirect messages to their own servers, Kaminsky said.

The result: criminals have a way not only to comb through the contents of those messages, but also to gain access to other password-protected Web sites the victims belong to.

That's because most sites have a feature that allows members to retrieve their passwords by e-mail if they've forgotten them. If a criminal has access to the account where that message is sent, he can then begin snooping on the contents of that account, from e-mail, to banking, to retailer sites.

The thrust of the DNS flaw is that it allows hackers to attach bad information to packets flowing in and out of DNS servers so they change the directions they give to certain Web sites.

It's the equivalent of turning around a street sign to send drivers down the wrong street.

So someone who innocently types in the address of a legitimate Web site can be strong-armed instead into going to a malicious site under the criminal's control. Because the attack happens at the network level, and the browser believes it's visiting the legitimate site, the attack is nearly impossible for users to detect.

Many e-mail servers are vulnerable because they also handle DNS traffic, Kaminsky said. Even if they only handle internal inquiries, if they interact with external DNS servers, that's often enough to expose them to attack.

Hackers are thus able to manipulate the packets associated with e-mail traffic the same way they manipulate the packets associated with general Web traffic.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q. How do I change the letter assigned to a drive in Windows?

A. You normally shouldn't have to bother doing this—unless, perhaps, you're bored with calling your primary drive "C:" after the past three decades of doing so. But adding extra drives or connecting to another computer on a home network can lead to drive-letter conflicts.

For example, when I plugged a multi-format card reader into my desktop at work, it grabbed a drive letter that already belonged to a shared volume on the office network, confusing a few programs.

In that case, you should follow the procedure outlined by Microsoft at support.microsoft.com/kb/307844, which involves traipsing through a little-used corner of the Control Panel to get to a "Disk Management" applet that, among other tasks, will let you assign the letter of your choice to any drive. This article refers to Windows XP, but the same procedure works in Windows Vista.

■■■

Q. How can I keep somebody from snooping in my Gmail when I'm using a public WiFi connection?

A. You should use an option that Google's popular Web-mail service finally began offering last month: a security setting that will switch your Gmail use to an encrypted, protected connection. When you log in to Gmail, click the "Settings" link at the top right of the page, scroll down until you see a "Browser connection" category, and click the button next to "Always use https."

From then on, your Gmail sign-in and everything else you read or write at this site will be digitally scrambled as it flows from Gmail's servers to your browser and back.

But when you're reading sensitive messages in public, don't forget to make sure nobody's looking over your shoulder.

Life & Style

Teen texting expert insists on being letter-perfect

By JENNA JOHNSON
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—William Glass, 14, sends text messages like a middle-aged, technology-clueless English teacher. Properly spelled words. Correct punctuation. Precise capitalization. Lengthy paragraphs. No shortened words.

OMG!?! R U Serious?

"I don't know, I guess I just never started using the abbreviations, so I'm used to typing things out," Glass texted. "Also, everyone understands words, but everyone might not understand the abbreviations."

Glass shuns shorthand but embraces speed. At a pace that veteran secretaries might envy, Glass sends as many as 800 texts a month, his thumbs quickly flying across his phone's Qwerty, or mini-keyboard.

That speed and respect for the English language landed Glass in the LG National Texting Championship in New York last month.

In June, Glass logged on to the LG Electronics Web site for an online qualifying round. Phrases popped up on the screen, and Glass quickly typed them into his phone and messaged them to the cellphone company.

"I've never won a contest that anyone could enter," Glass texted. "Also, the website didn't say when the winners would be notified, and I assumed that they would tell me immediately after, if I was a winner."

But the next day, Glass received a voice mail from an LG representative saying that he was a semifinalist and inviting him and a parent to New York for the texting championship.

With less than a month until the showdown, Glass started practicing, focusing on increasing speed and remembering where the punctuation marks were.

It helped that Glass and his friends communicate nearly exclusively by text message to arrange trips to the mall, share funny stories, pass electronic notes during class and stay in touch in the summer.

THE WASHINGTON POST

William Glass, 14, sends text messages like an English teacher: Properly spelled words. Correct punctuation. Precise capitalization. Lengthy paragraphs. That speed and respect for the English language landed Glass in the LG National Texting Championship in New York.

"He developed crazy texting skills," said his mother, Tonya Glass. The family lives in St. Mary's County, Md., about 50 miles southeast of here. But she also points out to any critics, such as those who sarcastically blog about the competition, that her son has a life outside of text messaging and has stellar grades at Leonardtown High School, where he will be a sophomore.

"I like to show these to as many people as I can," she said, holding up two honor roll certificates in protective plastic sleeves. "William is an honors student. He does other stuff, like studying and getting good grades."

Glass kept practicing up to the last minute in New York, sending texts as he and his mother explored the city and lounged in plush robes in their Times Square hotel. But during the semifinal round for seven online winners, Glass slowed down, messed up and lost.

Just when he thought he was out of the competition, contest organizers told Glass he had one more shot at the $50,000 grand prize, albeit a long shot. He could go up against 200 New Yorkers, possibly the toughest crowd of texters out there, who had gathered to fight for a final spot in the competition, open only to owners of LG phones.

The texters stood with hands behind their backs and counted down from 10. As soon as a message appeared on the monitors, they grabbed their mobile devices, typed with a flurry of thumbs and hit "send" on messages such as "They gave a monkey a typewriter, and he typed only 2 words: Chuck Norris." and "I am sooo ready 4 this down n dirty battle on the QWERTY!"

"The entries couldn't have any mistakes, at all," Glass texted. "What we typed had to be copied exactly from the screen, even down to the spaces and punctuation."

The first person to send a perfect text won the round and the other four texters were out, until only one remained: Glass. Suddenly, he found himself standing at the podium as one of eight regional finalists. And with his shy smile and popped polo shirt collar, he was a crowd favorite.

"He was adorable," said Demetra Kavadeles, an LG spokeswoman. "He had the crowd cheering for him. They just loved him."

But with all the lights and cheering and cameras and the "Austin Powers" theme song blaring from the speakers, Glass lost his focus. He made a mistake quickly and was out.

Still, Glass walked away with bragging rights and $800, which he plans to spend on a new iPod and back-to-school clothes.

"I was a little disappointed that I didn't win, but I had already known because I made a mistake in my message," Glass texted. "I did win some money though, and I'm going to try again next year for the grand prize."

The $50,000 check went to Nathan Schwartz, 20, of Ohio, who said he sends at least 5,000 texts a month. The winning text: "Does everybody here know the alphabet? Let's text. Here it goes ...AbcDeFghiJKlmNoPQrStuvWXy &Z! Now I know my A-B-C's, next time won't you text with me?"

Appeals court reverses Steinbeck copyrights ruling

This file photo of March 22, 1963 shows Nobel prize-winning author John Steinbeck, right, and his son, Thomas, in Hartford, Conn. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal appeals court Wednesday reversed a ruling that awarded one of John Steinbeck's sons and a granddaughter publishing rights to 10 of the author's early works, including "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Of Mice and Men."

The ruling by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will leave the rights in the hands of Penguin Group Inc. and the heirs of John Steinbeck's widow, Elaine. Author John Steinbeck died in 1968; his wife in 2003.

The appeals court said a lower court judge misapplied copyright law in awarding the rights in 2006 to the son, Thomas Steinbeck, and granddaughter Blake Smyle. Both already receive a portion of the proceeds of sales.

The case was returned to the lower court with instructions to leave the rights with various individuals and organizations, including the publisher Penguin and Elaine Steinbeck's heirs. The heirs include her sister, four children and grandchildren.

Mark S. Lee, the lawyer repre-

See APPEALS on next page

BEST SELLERS

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Nonfiction

1 ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.

2 ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames***, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life and smoking.

3 **The Dark Side**, by Jane Mayer (Doubleday: $27.50) Mayer argues that the White House amassed power in the post-9/11 state of panic to devastating results.

4 ***Life With My Sister Madonna***, by Christopher Ciccone with Wendy Leigh (Simon Spotlight Entertainment: $26) A brother's tale of life with the famous entertainer.

5 ***Are You There, Vodka? It's Me***, Chelsea, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: $24.95) The talk-show host skewers family and work.

6 ***Goodnight Bush***, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.

7 ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

8 ***The Soloist***, by Steve Lopez (Putnam: $25.95) The Los Angeles Times columnist befriends a homeless musician.

9 ***Fleeced***, by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann (Harper: $26.95) How the average American is being sold out.

10 ***You: Staying Young***, by Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz (Free Press: $26) Doctors explain how the body ages and how to counter those effects.

Fiction

1 ***Moscow Rules***, by Daniel Silva (Putnam: $26.95) The death of a journalist leads Gabriel Allon to a Russian arms dealer.

2 ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: $24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

3 ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) In Vol. 3 of a vampire love saga, Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, life and death.

4 ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle in this twist on Hamlet.

5 ***The Dangerous Days of Daniel X***, by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge (Little, Brown: $19.99) An alien hunter with the power to shape-shift hunts down his parents' killer.

6 ***The Host***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.

7 ***Chasing Darkness***, by Robert Crais (Simon & Schuster: $25.95) When a man cleared of a murder charge is found dead, Elvis Cole is called to account.

8 ***The Enchantress of Florence***, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: $26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.

9 ***The Art of Racing in the Rain***, by Garth Stein (Harper: $23.95) A dog's-eye view of love, loyalty and sacrifice.

10 ***Brida, by Paulo Coelho*** (Harper: $24.95) An aspiring young Irish magician embarks on a quest for knowledge of the spiritual world.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. Katy Perry No. 1 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)
2. Rihanna No. 2 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
3. Chris Brown No. 3 "Forever" (Jive)
4. Rihanna No. 15 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. Coldplay No. 5 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)

Katy Perry

6. Lil Wayne No. 8 "A Milli" (Cash Money)
7. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 4 "Lollipop" (Cash Money)
8. Kardinal Offishall feat. Akon No. 9 "Dangerous" (KonLive/Geffen)
9. Leona Lewis No. 6 "Bleeding Love" (Syco/3)
10. Jesse McCartney No. 10 "Leavin'" (Hollywood)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Miley Cyrus new entry "Breakout" (Hollywood)
2. Sugarland new entry "Love On the Inside: Deluxe Fan Edition" (Mercury Nashville)
3. Soundtrack NO. 3 "Mamma Mia!" (Decca)
4. Kid Rock No. 6 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
5. Lil Wayne No. 2 "Tha Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
6. Coldplay No. 4 "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)
7. Soundtrack No. 5 "Camp Rock" (Walt Disney)
8. Nas No. 1 "Untitled" (Def Jam/Columbia)
9. Various Artists No. 11 "NOW 28" (EMI/Sony BMG/Universal/Zomba)
10. Taylor Swift No. 9 "Beautiful Eyes (EP) (Big Machine)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Alan Jackson No. 1 "Good Time" (Arista Nashville)
2. Sugarland No. 3 "All I Want to Do" (Mercury)
3. Keith Urban No. 5 "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Capitol Nashville)
4. Taylor Swift No. 6 "Should've Said No" (Big Machine)
5. Brooks & Dunn No. 4 "Put a Girl In It" (Arista Nashville)
6. Keith Anderson No. 7 "I Still Miss You" (Columbia)
7. Blake Shelton No. 2 "Home" (Warner Bros.)
8. Miranda Lambert No. 8 "Gunpowder & Lead" (Columbia)
9. Jimmy Wayne No. 15 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
10. Josh Gracin No. 10 "We Weren't Crazy" (Lyric Street)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. The Dark Knight (PG-13) Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
2. The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13) Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
3. Step Brothers (R) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
4. Mamma Mia! (PG-13) Amanda Seyfried, Stellan Skarsgard
5. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson
6. Swing Vote (PG-13) Kevin Costner, Madeline Carroll
7. Hancock (PG-13) Will Smith, Charlize Theron
8. WALL-E (G) animated
9. The X-Files: I Want To Believe (PG-13) David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
10. Space Chimps (G) animated

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. The Bank Job (R) Jason Statham (Lionsgate)
2. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) Briana Evigan (Disney/Touchstone)
3. College Road Trip (G) Martin Lawrence (Disney)
4. Vantage Point (PG-13) Dennis Quaid (Sony Pictures)
5. Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) Owen Wilson (Paramount)
6. The Ruins (R) Jonathan Tucker (Paramount/DreamWorks)
7. Shutter (PG-13) Joshua Jackson (Fox)
8. 10,000 BC (PG-13) Steven Strait (Warner)
9. Stop-Loss (R) Ryan Phillippe (Paramount)
10. Fool's Gold (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey (Warner)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) (Touchstone)
2. College Road Trip (G) (Walt Disney)
3. The Bank Job (R) (Lionsgate)
4. Batman Begins (PG-13) (Warner)
5. Penelope (PG) (Universal)
6. Batman: Gotham Knight (PG-13) (DC Comics Inc.)
7. Shutter (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
8. 10,000 BC (PG-13) (Warner)
9. Vantage Point (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
10. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) (Nickelodeon Video)

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CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I keep hearing that William Petersen is leaving "CSI." Is this true?—Roland G. in Oregon

A: William Petersen, an original cast member who played Gil Grissom for nine seasons, is indeed leaving "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" in the middle of the upcoming 10th season -- 10 episodes into the season, to be exact. Don't get too sad, however, as he has agreed to return for occasional guest appearances and will remain one of the show's executive producers.

If there is any good news in his leaving, it's that a number of familiar characters will return in the episodes building up to his character's departure, including former colleague and flame Sara Sidle, played by Jorja Fox, as well as the Miniature Killer and sexy Lady Heather. As of this writing, talk has been that Laurence Fishburne and John Malkovich have been considered as replacements for William in the upcoming season.

■ ■ ■

Q: I heard that Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck are close to divorce. Please tell me it isn't true -- they are such a cute couple, and their daughter, Violet, is simply adorable.—Theresa C., via e-mail

A: All signs point to "still together." Their rep has repeatedly denied that the couple is on the verge of a break-up, and Victor Garber, Jen's former "Alias" co-star and good friend, confirmed this past month that Ben and Jen are expecting their second baby this winter.

■ ■ ■

Q: I just started watching "The Sopranos" and would like to know more about the actor who plays Furio. Has he been in other movies or television shows?—Theresa G., Englewood, Fla.

A: Federico Castelluccio—who played Tony Soprano's right-hand man, Furio Giunta, on the hit mafia series from 2000-2006—got his acting start on the now-defunct soap opera "Another World." But it was "The Sopranos" that gave Federico his big break. Since leaving the HBO series, he has co-starred many movies, including "A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints" with Robert Downey Jr., "El Cantante" with Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez. Look for him in the upcoming films "The Pink Panther 2" and "Thunder Doyle," which will reunite Federico with former "Sopranos" castmate Vincent Pastore, who played "Big Pussy."

William Petersen

However, Federico's first passion is painting, and he was one of the master painters involved with re-creating many museum Impressionist masterpieces for the 1999 Pierce Brosnan movie "The Thomas Crown Affair."

■ ■ ■

Q: I missed the last show of The CW's "Farmer Wants a Wife." Who did Matt choose?—Ruth M., Fort Worth, Texas

A: Matt Neustadt, the aforementioned farmer from the title of the matchmaking reality show, is a 29-year-old from West Alton, Mo. In the final episode, he choose Brooke Ward, the 23-year-old marketing representative from Dallas, over finalist Christa Ackerman, the 21-year-old cocktail waitress from New York City.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

APPEALS

From Page 30

senting Thomas Steinbeck and Blake Smyle, said he was disappointed with the ruling.

Attorney Susan J. Kohlmann, who represented Steinbeck's estate, said the estate and its heirs were delighted, saying Wednesday's ruling meant "the wishes of John Steinbeck related to ownership of his literary works have been validated."

Penguin Group issued a statement saying it was "tremendously gratified."

Steinbeck signed agreements with The Viking Press in 1938 and 1939 covering many of his best-known works, including "The Grapes of Wrath," "Of Mice and Men," "The Long Valley," "Cup of Gold," "The Pastures of Heaven," "Tortilla Flat" and "In Dubious Battle."

The duties of The Viking Press were later assigned by Viking to Penguin Group (USA) Inc., now owned by Pearson PLC. When Steinbeck died, he bequeathed his interest in the copyrights to his widow while his two sons each received $50,000 in trust funds.

In 1994, Elaine Steinbeck and Penguin signed a new agreement adding several other early Steinbeck works and some of his posthumous works. It also improved the economic terms, providing a larger annual guaranteed advance and royalties of 10 to 15 percent of retail sales.

When she died, Elaine Steinbeck left her copyright interests to heirs, including her children and grandchildren from a previous marriage, but she excluded John Steinbeck's two sons and their heirs.

In 2004, Steinbeck's surviving son, Thomas, and Smyle, the sole surviving child of his other son, the late John IV, informed Penguin that they were terminating its publication rights, dating to the 1930s agreements. They cited federal law aimed at preventing publishers from taking advantage of authors who sign away rights early in their careers before they have enough success to demand better terms.

Penguin responded by suing them, saying the 1994 agreement with Elaine Steinbeck had superseded and terminated the deals made in the 1930s. Her heirs filed a similar suit.

A lower court judge sided with Steinbeck's son and granddaughter, leading to Wednesday's decision by the 2nd Circuit.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Son, Father and Brother

†Edward Borja Ada

"BOBO"

Daily Masses will be offered for the reposed of his soul, beginning Monday, August 18 to Monday, August 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the evening at San Vicente Church. On the last day, Tuesday, August 26, Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at the San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

Mrs. Josepha B. Ada,
Jadine, CJ, Wildrow & Brothers & Sisters

The Age of Madonna: Touched for a very long time

By HANK STUEVER
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Madonna, OMG, you are 50.

You have said again and again that you never read newspapers or magazines, even though you are always in newspapers and magazines, so this is in some way wasted space and energy.

Then again, she needn't be present for us to talk about her. This has always been the key element to how Madonna has spent half her life, deliberately deaf in the center of the buzz. Madonna turning 50 is not about Madonna. As ever, it's about the rest of us, who are always caught watching Madonna do whatever it is Madonna currently does, even if when whatever Madonna is doing is nothing more than growing old.

"So what are you going to do when you get older, Madonna? Are you going to be going on 50 and still get up on-stage and shake your booty, like Cher? What happens when your body goes?"

"Then I'll use my mind."—From an interview with Madonna, in Vanity Fair, October 1992

Here are 50 or so disconnected thoughts for and about Madonna's half-century mark. Starting with the start, not with her actual birth (on Aug. 16, 1958) but with her entrance into the collective consciousness:

On a sweaty August morning 1.3 zillion years ago, some girls showed up at our back-to-school orientation junior year changed, with messy, bleachy, streaky hair tied in raggedy bows. Black plastic wristwatches and rubber bangles stacked around their tiny wrists. Black *bras*.

Just a few of the girls, not all of the girls.

The Madonna train had left the station. Even the sourest of us—Led Zeppelin fans, stoners, wrestlers, cynics, student newspaper editors—were on a Madonna train we did not know we'd boarded.

You had to disregard a lot of good musical advice to go where Madonna was going. You had to ignore the professional critics and thoughtful guys in art class who wore Converse All-Stars and had R.E.M. and Elvis Costello albums, who begged you not to listen to that *crap*. People who hated Madonna never understood that some of us liked her just to make the people who didn't like her even more apoplectic about the fact that she was getting more and more famous.

Parked at the reservoir on a Friday night, "Lucky Star" came out of the stereo speakers of a Camaro or a Prelude and three or four people did the dance exactly as Madonna and her dancers did it in the video, every single step. That these brave souls were not pummeled by drunken jocks, that the cassette was not destroyed, signified that Madonna had broken through.

The Madonna thing came, at first blush, with so much that was good: glad rags, vintage stores, granny sunglasses, costume jewels, trench coats—that Salvation Army insouciance, which, any real student of fashion and culture will tell you, Madonna had just stolen from everyone else. The Madonna thing came with clear directives: Express yourself, be yourself, winner take all. Some of us started going to a nightclub. A Madonna song would come on and half the people would stomp off the floor in a very defiant, music-snob form of protest.

Those of us who remained, remain.

"Though I have fears, I think truthfully I'm going to live to be a very old age. If what I've gone through hasn't killed me yet, nothing's going to. That's my (bleeping) opinion."— Madonna, to Vogue, October 1996

Nobody believed Madonna would last. No story about her ever neglects to mention that fact, the improbability of her success, the enthralling triumph of complete mediocrity. In my house, we maintain a secret archive of magazines on which Madonna appeared on the cover. It's remarkable how many of them feature a headline to the effect of "the New Madonna" and "Madonna's New Look" and "Madonna Now."

Twenty years ago, feminist scholars went bananas trying to deconstruct her, interpret her as a text. The ivory tower vogued, as Madonna Studies showed that she was (is?) the great liberator, showing the way to sex as an irrelevancy, then sex as a relevancy, then sex as an altogether different weapon, *ibid* and *op. cit.*, and on and on, until finally there was nothing more to say.

Then came the articles in Forbes, BusinessWeek, Fortune: Madonna as the extremely shrewd CEO of Herself Inc.

Then came Ladies' Home Journal, with the angle of Madonna and Child. Madonna as human V-chip, shielding her children from, of all things, ice cream and popular culture: "We're a TV- and dairy-free house," she told Ladies' Home Journal in 2005.

Since Kabbalah revamped her spiritual core at around age 40, Madonna became the sort of insufferably enlightened old lady who is only too happy to tell you what she's too good for. She's like those women you run into at play groups and the farmers market, only she is worth $600 million.

We paid $200 to see Madonna in concert a few years ago. She sang "Imagine" by John Lennon. "Please listen to the words of this song," she ordered us. "We have to change the world." She said this as if the audience had never before heard "Imagine" or thought about the lyrics. When you give Madonna your money now, you're buying a thrilling opportunity to bask in her audacity:

You must listen to me.

We must change the planet, together, each one of us.

I have to get on my jet now.

Fly, earth mother, fly.

"Even when I was a little girl, I knew I wanted the whole world to know who I was, to love me and be affected by me."—Madonna, to People, May 13, 1985

Two out of three, not bad. We do all know her, and we are all affected by her. (Yes, we are.)

The love part is the hardest.

She wanted to be *loved*?

Madonna is someone you have to hate in order to love. In Madonnaworld, scoffing is a value-added experience attached to pure fandom. Just watch a Madonna fan listen to the new Madonna album for the first time. There is such instantaneous loathing and fascination. You spend a week telling all your friends how bad the new album is, then a week later you magically decide you like it. The new songs take their place in a canon that stretches back into 25 years of half-hearted gym membership.

Summer horribilis! She for whom there was never such a thing as bad publicity cannot possibly be enjoying her latest headlines, can she? The narrative is seemingly no longer in Madonna's control. (Unless it is. There is the possibility that she now masterminds her own "bad" publicity.)

The rumors (denied) about an impending divorce from Guy Ritchie, about her luring A-Rod away from his family. Headlines about her younger brother's tell-all book, "Life With My Sister Madonna," No. 2 on the New York Times list. (A summary, of sorts: She was always a you know what. She still owes him for these myriad home-decorating jobs he slavishly agreed to do; she is *such* a you know what; she didn't give him a very nice room in the Scottish castle where she got married; she deliberately didn't tell him about the Kabbalah prayer meeting at Demi Moore's house.)

The book has pictures of Madonna as a teenager, wearing a dress her stepmother made. It has pictures of Thanksgiving with the Ciccones. It is devastatingly unmythological.

"Listen, once you pass 35, your age becomes part of the first sentence of anything written."—Madonna, to Out magazine, April 2006

It becomes the last sentence, too, my love.

A week or so ago, there were those death-mask pictures of Madonna, seen leaving a yoga class in London, gaunt and stranger than her normal strange, with Ginsu cheekbones and these throbbing veins snaking up and down the sinew of arms that have seen much mystical discipline. Every magazine in the checkout line desperately seeking sutures: *What happened to her face?!*

Experts are called in, diagrams are made, and nobody seems to say, well, she's 50 you know. She'll be dead someday. We all will.

When you get to heaven, what's the DJ playing?

"Ray of Light"?

Maybe, if you're a Madonna anti-fan fan, you'll get there and you'll hear those synthesized chimes from the opening of "Lucky Star," and it's a Friday night at the lake, and it is always 1980-something, and it happens all over again.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The more Madonna changes, the more things stay the same. Magazine covers (top row, from left) from 1984, 1985 and 1989, and (bottom row, from left) from 1990, 2005 and 2008.

More than just a puppet master

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The other day, I dropped in on the Smithsonian's International Gallery to check out "Jim Henson's Fantastic World," a celebration of the puppeteer's work co-produced by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and an organization called the Jim Henson Legacy.

Legacy?, I thought. That's a bit highfalutin for a guy who basically made his name shoving his hand up a frog's behind.

But then, a few days later, as my son and I were driving in the car, a song came on the radio. It was a version of "Rubber Duckie," the ditty made famous by "Sesame Street's" Ernie, one of Henson's Muppet characters. The tune was familiar, but the words were being sung ... in Mandarin Chinese. (Titled "Xiang pi xiao ya," the song is available on the compilation CD "Sesame Street Playground," from Putumayo Kids.) Up next? Van Morrison's 1973 cover of the Kermit the Frog soul anthem "Bein' Green."

OK. So maybe "legacy" isn't such an exaggeration after all.

If "Fantastic World" makes one thing clear, it's this. Henson, who died in 1990 at 53, came a long, long way from his humble beginnings in the Washington area. It was there that his puppets came to light in the mid-1950s, first on a five-minute TV show called "Sam and Friends," and later in a long-running series of short commercials for a local company, Wilkins Coffee. Some of those old black-and-white clips (delightfully low-tech and unslick) are among the most charming offerings in the Smithsonian show, which ranges from early concert and theater poster designs from when Henson was still a University of Maryland undergrad to elaborate props, costumes and characters created for such feature films as 1982's "The Dark Crystal."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jim Henson made his name by creating such beloved characters as Kermit, but "Jim Henson's Fantastic World," on display at the Smithsonian in Washington, showcases his other creative endeavors as well.

Much of this career path will look familiar, especially once "Sesame Street" (which debuted in 1969) enters the timeline, with its cast of such well-known characters as Oscar the Grouch and Big Bird. Less well known, and, quite frankly, more fascinating to grown-ups than to kids, will be the behind-the-scenes tidbits detailing Henson's creative process: sketches that show the herky-jerky evolution of now-beloved characters, rough storyboards and documentary photos illuminating the hard work that goes into making puppets look alive (and then making all that hard work look easy).

But the exhibition's real surprises have nothing to do with Muppets.

The nine-minute film "Time Piece" is one such surprise. Made by Henson in 1965, this Academy Award-nominated live-action short probably will come as a revelation to anyone who associates Henson exclusively with puppetry (and especially with cuteness). Exploring time as an idea, the surreal, mostly wordless film stars Henson as a man dislocated in time, jumping forward and backward, to a percussive jazz beat, through his own (and mankind's) history. Although somewhat dated, it's still a remarkable piece of experimental filmmaking and shows a side of Henson I can guarantee most people don't know. With flashes of humor, it's far from dead serious. But it's also a world away from the "fantastic" one through which many of us know him.

More important, it makes one wonder. If Henson's life had not been cut short, just what would this talented artist's true legacy have become?

In Celebration of Her New Life

BEATRIS SABLAN REYES

Born to Life February 12, 1920
Called to Eternal Rest August 10, 2008

Predeceased by her

HUSBAND	Mariano San Nicolas Reyes
FATHER	Benigno San Nicolas Sablan
MOTHER	Consuelo Campos Salas Sablan
BROTHERS	Antonio S. Sablan (†)/Maria B. (†)
	Jose S. Sablan (†)/Maria M. (†)
	David S. Sablan (†)/Engracia 0.
	Manuel S. Sablan (†)/Ramona C. (†)
	Ricardo S. Sablan
SISTERS	Maria S. Sablan (†)
	Soledad S. Aguon (†)/Jose A. (†)
	Francisca S. Celis (†)/Francisco C. (†)
DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW	Fermina R. Cabrera (†)/Edward M. Cabrera.(†)

Survived by her

BROTHER & SISTERS	Vicente S. Sablan/Theresa B. (†)
	Thomasa S. Borja/Felix B. (†)
	Virginia S. Aguon/Benito A. (†)
CHILDREN & SPOUSES	Olympia R. Santos/Gonzalo Q. and Children
	Robert S. Reyes/Magdalena S. and Children
	Lydia R. Palacios/George S. and Children

Also survived by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children and Great Great Grand Children

On Monday August 18, 2008 Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 11:00 a.m. Burial follows at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

THE FAMILY

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

As we remember her passing
unto Eternal Life…

We, the family of

Sylveria Benavente Mendiola
'Berang'

invite our relatives and friends
to join us in prayers as we
commmemorate the First Anniversary
of our departed loved one.

Daily Masses will be celebrated
at St. Jude Church beginning
Friday, August 8, 2008 through
August 16, 2008, as follows:

Aug. 8, Friday – 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 9, Saturday – 7:00 a.m.
Aug. 10, Sunday – 8:00 a.m.
Aug. 11-15 (Mon-Fri) – 6:00 p.m.

On the last day, **August 16, 2008**, Mass will be celebrated at **6:00 p.m.** Dinner will be served immediately at the family's residence in As Lito.

Please join us.

Jacinto B. Mendiola and Children

'40-Year-Old Virgin' actor pleads not guilty

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An actor who appeared in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" pleaded not guilty Wednesday to attempted murder in the stabbing of his girlfriend.

Shelley Malil, 43, was ordered held on $10 million bond after Superior Court Judge Marshall Hockett deemed him a flight risk. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted of the charge, which includes special circumstances of premeditation, causing great bodily injury and using a deadly weapon.

Prosecutor Steven Carver said Malil, who first gained fame in Budweiser's 2001 Super Bowl "What are you doing?" commercial, appeared on the back patio of Kendra Beebe's house Sunday in the inland suburb of San Marcos and attacked her with a knife while her two children slept upstairs.

"There was a prolonged attack," Carver said after Malil's arraignment hearing. "He came up and started stabbing her immediately without any words or argument."

A man who was visiting Beebe disarmed Malil, who found a second knife inside the house and continued attacking Beebe, Carver said. A neighbor who heard the commotion found Malil on the front patio and took away the second weapon before the actor fled.

"He did not stop his murderous acts voluntarily but because of the heroic acts of the neighbor," Carver said.

Beebe, a 35-year-old mother of two, was stabbed 20 times. At least three of the wounds—deep punctures to each lung and one to her throat—were life-threatening.

Beebe remains hospitalized but is expected to survive, Carver said.

Malil was arrested Monday after his lawyer persuaded him to board a train from Los Angeles to Oceanside, in northern San Diego County.

"He surrendered himself," said Malil's attorney, Sean Leslie, who contacted law enforcement on the actor's behalf before the surrender.

Malil was initially held in lieu of $2 million bail. Carver requested an increase to $4 million, citing the actor's ties to his home country of India, along with a phone call the actor allegedly placed to a friend after the knife attack claiming he was in Tijuana, Mexico.

Leslie said he did not know anything about the call.

Malil was convicted in 2005 of a misdemeanor hit-and-run while driving under the influence of alcohol, Carver said.

Shelley Malil is led into the courtroom by San Diego Sheriff's Deputies before his arraignment in Vista Superior Court Wednesday Aug. 13, 2008, Vista, Calif. AP

Malil starred in the Budweiser commercial, a spinoff of the "Whassup" spots from 2000. He played a co-worker, Haziz, to comedian Steve Carell's title character in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

The Associated Press called Malil's partnership with Gerry Bednob in the movie one of the "Top 10 Overlooked Performances of 2005."

He has also appeared in dozens of TV shows including "NYPD Blue" and "Scrubs."

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Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis
As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt.

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
A man is head of security at a department store plagued by unexplained deaths. The store is also the target of demonstrators wanting compensation for an earlier staff fire tragedy. The man becomes intrigued by a disturbed woman. She claims her sister, who died in the fire, is exacting revenge, using mirrors as a gateway back into the living world.

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:20	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
A group of self-absorbed actors set out to make the biggest war film ever. After ballooning costs (and the out of control egos of the pampered cast) threaten to shut down the movie, the frustrated director refuses to stop shooting, leading his cast deep into the jungles of Southeast Asia for "increased realism," where they inadvertently encounter real bad guys.

★ ★ ★

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Pineapple Express

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Dark Knight

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia

Friday		4:10	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:20	

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated PG 13

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Lil Jon shifts from crunk to 'world music'

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Jon is known for crunk music, but he's hoping his upcoming album will show that he has a broader appeal.

"It's not just music for the United States: It's world music," Lil Jon said of his new sound in an interview. "I'm touching so many different kinds of people on this album as well as keeping my core fan base at the same time."

The producer and rapper, best known for hits like "Get Low," Usher's "Yeah" and Ciara's "Goodies," is working on a new album following his release from his longtime label, TVT Records. TVT filed for bankruptcy earlier this year and its assets were purchased by the digital entertainment company The Orchard.

The working title of the CD was "Crunk Rock," but Lil Jon says he's thinking of changing the title to reflect the album's new direction—and his new freedom.

"It's totally given me a new energey, a new everything," he said of his release. "When you have a lot of stress and negativity around you, when you cut that away, you cleanse. ... I'm starting over, basically."

And Lil Jon, 37, says he's looking to incorporate different musical styles in his synth-rap sound, working with dance acts, soca musicians, rock stars and more.

"I want people to say it's breath of fresh air from everything that's out there," he says. "It's still going to be me and what they know me for, but it's still going to be newer."

But Lil Jon is still searching for a new label to release his record. While he says he was open exploring different ways to get his music out—even a Radiohead-type deal in which he would put his music out on the Internet for a pay-what-you-wish system—he's more interested in a bigger label.

"With my fan base being broader and larger now, I'm looking to somewhere where somebody can really take advantage of that and take it to the next level."

BET starts a weekly news program

NEW YORK (AP)—BET starts a weekly news program on Friday described as a cross between Keith Olbermann and Bill Maher with a black perspective.

Called "The Truth with Jeff Johnson" and airing at 11 p.m. on Fridays, the program stars a BET personality who has also been an activist for the NAACP and People for the American Way. Its debut is timed for the Democratic National Convention.

BET, the most-watched network aimed at blacks, will also air Barack Obama's speech accepting the Democratic presidential nomination on Aug. 28 live, just like its competitor TV One. Neither network, however, is airing John McCain's acceptance speech at the Republican convention the next week.

Besides election coverage and commentary on the week's news, Johnson said he wanted "The Truth" to address topics like the use of vouchers for private schools and health issues particularly relevant to African Americans.

BET has been criticized frequently in the black community for cutting back on news-oriented shows. But Johnson said much of the criticism comes from people who don't watch BET, and don't see how news has been incorporated into existing shows. BET was one of the few networks to cover Darfur in depth, he said.

"I have been encouraged by the direction we've been going in," he said.

On the four nights of the Democratic convention, BET will run news specials focusing on how ex-convicts can't vote, on the top 10 issues facing black Americans, on the key moments leading up to Obama's nomination and on whether Obama could be considered a manifestation of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

While TV One is carrying live convention coverage for four nights and an "afterparty" of social commentary, BET's only live coverage will be of Obama's speech. BET's reporters will deliver convention stories inserted into other programs, Johnson said.

The networks' focus on Obama is understandable given polls showing overwhelming support for the Democrat among black Americans. (A poll taken in June for The Associated Press and Yahoo News found blacks favoring Obama by a margin of 90 percent to 3 percent, with 6 percent unsure.) But is it necessarily fair?

Paul Porter, a former BET program director and news anchor who now runs the Web site Industryears.com, said it isn't fair. He also believes the networks' coverage decisions are being made for financial reasons, not journalistic ones.

"I'm happy they're doing it, but I know that it will be gone after November," Porter said. "You'll never see politics or information on any of these networks."

That's pretty much the case with TV One. Johnathan Rodgers, the network's president, said he tried doing some news programming when he was an executive at Discovery and the audience preferred to get their information elsewhere.

James Franco

By CHRIS LEE
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—In "Pineapple Express," he plays a visibly unwashed hippie pot dealer on the run from mobsters: a THC-addled naif with a crinkly smile, a curtain of lank, dark hair and a heart of gold. But don't get the wrong impression about James Franco just because of his spot-on performance in the most anticipated stoner action-comedy of the year. He's no dope, even though he smokes plenty on-screen.

To wit: Dude can almost carbon-date his experiences making certain movies by recalling what literature he was reading at the time.

In 2006, while filming the massive international blockbuster "Spider-Man 3," in which the actor plays Spidey's BFF turned arch nemesis the Green Goblin, Franco was deep into the classical canon of Shakespeare, Chaucer and Milton—required reading for the creative writing degree he was pursuing at the time. "It took so long to set up the effects shots and get everything coordinated, it was perfect for doing homework," Franco said, chomping into a club sandwich at a Beverly Hills hotel.

Portraying Sean Penn's love interest in "Milk," director Gus Van Sant's biopic about slain San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk earlier this year, Franco stole many an off-camera moment to plow through the works of Thomas Pynchon.

And while filming the Judd Apatow-produced "Pineapple Express"—in which Franco's soulful, bromantic, type-shattering performance anchors the pot humor and surreal violence—it was all 16th century Jacobean drama all the time. "I can remember reading 'The Revenger's Tragedy' and 'Maid's Tragedy.' Stuff by Ben Jonson," Franco said. His costar in the film Danny McBride recalled being impressed with the actor's ability to juggle Hollywood and academia. "James just nailed it. He is hilarious," McBride said. "He was going to college full time while he was shooting the movie; he was in the makeup chair reading his homework. He would shoot nights and then go back to school the next morning."

Who knew? Here's a seemingly Serious Actor Type who devours serious books even while brooding and emoting in blockbusters and smaller indie fare alike. At least that's how it adds up, taken with Franco's recent work, as well as his self-contained performances in 2002's "City by the Sea" opposite Robert De Niro and in the TV movie "James Dean," a biopic for which Franco won a best performance Golden Globe for the title role.

But not so fast.

To hear the 30-year-old tell it, he's not really the Serious Actor guy he's reputed to be. Exhibit A: his career-altering choice to go to the comedy route. The move was precipitated by a chance meeting two years ago with Apatow—his boss on the critically hailed but short-lived '90s sitcom "Freaks & Geeks"—who told the actor he "missed the funny Franco." Moreover, the comic mogul had a movie for him: a stoner action-adventure written by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg of "Superbad" fame.

> *"He's a very serious actor. He goes for it 100 percent. And there were no false starts. Coming from a serious, trained background gave him tools to launch his talent. I think he's kind of a comedic genius."*

LOS ANGELES TIMES

What to do during breaks in the filming day . . . nap? Not James Franco. He does homework between takes. The "Pineapple Express" star is entering two graduate programs this fall.

"I was fairly disappointed with some of the roles I had done," Franco said. "I guess I'm proud of 'James Dean.' But 'Tristan & Isolde' or 'Annapolis' are just—I worked really hard on those movies, but I just don't like them. I don't want to make those movies anymore."

Initially, however, "Pineapple Express" distributor Sony was skeptical about the "Spider-Man" franchise member playing it for laughs. Ultimately, Apatow, who produced such raunchy bros-and-bongs comedy hits as "40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Superbad," convinced the studio he'd be right for the film after Franco dialed in a funny screen test/cameo for the Apatow-produced maternity comedy "Knocked Up" and starred in a hilarious, self-skewering Web movie series, "Acting With James Franco," for www.funnyordie.com.

In "Pineapple Express," slouchy process server Dale (Rogen) witnesses a murder while toking on some industrial-strength herb called Pineapple Express provided by his terminally spaced-out weed dealer Saul (Franco), the only person in town selling the strain. In a haze of ganja, the two go on the run with the expectation that murderous mobsters will connect them to the scene, at first unsure if their paranoia is simply weed-induced or justified by the pursuit of ruthless gunmen.

Franco threw the filmmakers a curveball when it came to casting. Apatow and Rogen had him in mind to play Dale, with Rogen as the pot dealer. But during script reading, Franco balked. "I said, 'Seth gets to play the role I want.' . . . . They said, 'No, we want you to play Saul!' They later told me they had decided to give it to me right in that moment."

In preproduction, director David Gordon Green had certain misgivings about whether Franco would be able to strike the right comic tone—Green was looking for a "heartfelt, not cartoon stoner" performance in the vein of Brad Pitt's zooted rastaman in "True Romance." Then there was Green's initial confusion over the actor's habit of having his nose buried in a book every minute.

"You see the guy pull out a Thomas Pynchon book and you say, 'Is he pulling this out so we have this perception of him?' Then you realize he's actually reading it," Green said. "He uses his time productively. Instead of sleeping in his trailer, he's making a full day of it, packing a lot into life.

"He's a very serious actor," Green continued. "He goes for it 100 percent. And there were no false starts. Coming from a serious, trained background gave him tools to launch his talent. I think he's kind of a comedic genius."

Playing against type

Guest uneasy at bat mitzvah should step up to the plate

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 14 years old and the daughter of a successful businessman. Daddy recently announced that we have been invited to the bat mitzvah of the daughter of one of his coworkers. I don't want to go.

When I was in seventh grade, I went to her brother's bar mitzvah. While the actual ceremony was interesting and enlightening (I'm Catholic), the party afterward was really uncomfortable. I'm not shy, but it is hard to socialize with people I have never met before on such a large scale.

I am afraid I'll be intimidated by all the other kids there who know each other. How can I enjoy myself this time around? I'd appreciate any advice you have.

QUIET AND INTIMIDATED IN CLEVELAND

DEAR QUIET AND INTIMIDATED: You are older and more socially skilled now than when you were a seventh-grader. You don't have to "sparkle," because the attention will be centered on the bat mitzvah girl.

Why not use being Catholic and not knowing anyone to your advantage? Pick out the cutest boy in the room, walk over and explain that this is all new for you. Remember the circle dance in which everyone participated at the last party? It's called the "hora." Tell him you don't know how and ask him to show you and lead you when the music starts. You may make a friend.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I had my first child, my sister "Ursula" bought me a cradle swing that retails for about $180. I have used it for both my children and have kept it in excellent condition. My youngest is nearing the recommended weight limit for the swing, so I'm considering selling it, as I do with all the items my children outgrow. I should get about $75 for it.

I'm a stay-at-home mom and my husband works two jobs. We live on a tight budget. I'd like to use the money I get for the swing for birthday and Christmas gifts for the kids.

Ursula's husband's niece, "Bree," is having a baby boy in two months. I'm not close to Bree and see her only every other year. I plan on giving her lots of the baby clothes, toys and equipment I have. I could have sold them, but chose to give them to Bree. I don't plan on giving her the swing.

Ursula is now reminding me that she and her husband gave me the swing and they would like me to pass it along to Bree. Am I obligated to give what was a gift to me and my children to Bree's child? There were no stipulations when I received it. How do I handle this?

PUZZLED IN PLANO, TEXAS

DEAR PUZZLED: For Ursula to dictate to you how you dispose of the gift takes a lot of nerve, and no rule of etiquette obligates you to give the swing to Bree. However, unless you want that swing to become a bone of contention and a source of resentment, give it to Bree with a smile. The good feelings it will generate are worth more than $75—and the penalty isn't worth it. Trust me.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: This may be a dumb question, but I don't have the answer. If my elderly roommate dies (of old age) during the night, who do I call the next morning—his doctor at a big, impersonal HMO, the county coroner or the cremation society of which he is a prepaid member? He has no living relatives.

ANXIOUS ROOMIE IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ANXIOUS: Your question is not "dumb." In the event that someone dies at home, the police should be notified so they can be sure the person passed away of natural causes.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Britney Spears: Happy being a mom and an aunt

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears tells OK! magazine she's focused on family life these days, looking forward to her two sons meeting their new cousin, daughter of her sister, Jamie Lynn Spears.

"She's going to come out here for the kids' birthdays," Spears, who lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., says of Jamie Lynn in the Aug. 25 issue of OK! "It will be the first time the cousins meet. I'm sure the boys will be like big brothers to Maddie," who was born June 19.

Spears, 26, flaunts her maternal side in photos with sons Sean Preston and Jayden James on the cover and inside pages of the magazine. There are shots of the family in Spears' pool, including one showing the pop star enjoying a swim with her once-estranged mother, Lynne.

After several years of custody battles, estrangements and high-profile meltdowns, Spears reports life with all family members is calm and pleasant.

Her relationship with her mother, soon due out with a book about the family's life, is "really, really good. I went through a stage when I was in high school when it wasn't so good, but now I'm at a stage where I really appreciate her a lot more."

OK
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BRITNEY
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50¢ LESS THAN PEOPLE
JEN ANISTON HER REACTION TO BRAD'S TWINS
MICHAEL PHELPS 'MY MOM'S MY HERO'
CARNIE WILSON 40 LBS DOWN, 20 TO GO!

AP

In this image released by OK!, Britney Spears and her sons Sean, left, and Jayden are shown on the cover of OK!

She says she's also getting along with her father, James, who's been in control of her personal and professional matters as her legal conservator.

As for being an aunt, it did take a little getting used to, says Spears, who was a little "shocked" while visiting her 17-year-old sister and actress Jamie Lynn in the hospital for the birth of her newborn daughter.

"That was special, but it was also strange because she's always been the baby, and now the baby was having a baby," Spears says. "It was mind-boggling. I was shocked a little bit."

Spears appears to have cleaned up her act in recent days. Last month, she settled a long-running custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline, which allows her additional visits with her children.

She also appears fit and confident in promotional ads for the upcoming MTV Video Music Awards—the opposite of her widely panned appearance at last year's ceremony. MTV has said they are in talks to have the singer appear at this year's Sept. 7 ceremony.

Cast members returning for 30th 'Dallas' reunion

AP

In this 1981 file photo originally provided by CBS, Larry Hagman, is shown in character as J.R. Ewing in the night-time drama, "Dallas."

DALLAS (AP)—J.R., Bobby, Sue Ellen and other members of the Ewing clan are getting back together for a "Dallas" reunion party.

Cast members of the popular prime-time soap opera that ran from 1978-91 will return to the Southfork Ranch north of Dallas on Nov. 8 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the show. Several key actors, including Larry Hagman, Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy, have confirmed they will attend.

Hagman, who played central character J.R. Ewing, a scheming oil baron and cattle rancher, said he is looking forward to the event.

"I may not be able to do the 40th," said Hagman, 76, in an interview with The Dallas Morning News. "Thirty years is pretty good, and the show is still very popular."

The reunion at the ranch in suburban Parker, north of Dallas, is open to the public. Tickets go on sale Aug. 22 and will cost between $100 and $1,000. The event will include fireworks, a country music concert, a question-and-answer session with the cast and tours of the mansion.

The show is perhaps best known for the "who shot J.R.?" cliffhanger that concluded the 1979-1980 season in which Hagman's character was blasted within an inch of his life. (The shooter turned out to be J.R. Ewing's sister-in-law, Kristin.)

"Dallas" featured the antics of a wealthy Texas clan that punched, slapped, drank, cavorted and schemed to gain control of the family fortune. The reunion promises to be tamer.

"Larry and I will have a bowl of Mueslix and a small shot of prune juice and be in bed by 9 o'clock," Duffy, who played Bobby Ewing, told the newspaper. "We'll let people file by the bed and watch us go to sleep. I think we can hang with the best of them until midnight."

Judge rules actor's accused stalker competent

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge says a woman accused of stalking John Cusack is competent to stand trial, but cannot represent herself.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Susan M. Speer made her ruling Wednesday afternoon based on a psychiatrist's evaluation of Emily Leatherman. The 33-year old was arrested earlier this year outside of the actor's home.

The judge made his ruling based on the recommendation of a court-appointed psychiatrist who evaluated Leatherman and said she was "delusional" and "paranoid."

Leatherman sobbed in court and repeatedly talked over Speer, prompting the judge to issue her several warnings. The judge appointed an attorney to represent Leatherman during her trial, which she says can begin Sept. 9.

In this Jan. 21, 2007 file photo, actor John Cusack poses for a photograph during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

APA

Paula Wagner leaving UA as chief executive

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Cruise's producing partner Paula Wagner said Wednesday she will leave her job as chief executive of United Artists to produce projects independently.

Wagner will continue to co-own the studio with Cruise and "be attached to UA's most exciting film properties," UA and its parent company Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. added in a joint statement.

Cruise and Wagner were brought in to head UA in November 2006.

She said she still believes in the vision she and Cruise have for the film studio that was formed nearly 90 years ago by Hollywood actors including Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford.

"I am proud of all that we've accomplished in the past two years," she said.

However, the effort has faced challenges.

Sid Ganis re-elected as film academy president

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sid Ganis was elected to a fourth consecutive one-year term as president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the group announced Wednesday.

The 68-year-old Ganis, who has served as academy president since 2005, calls the job "a privilege."

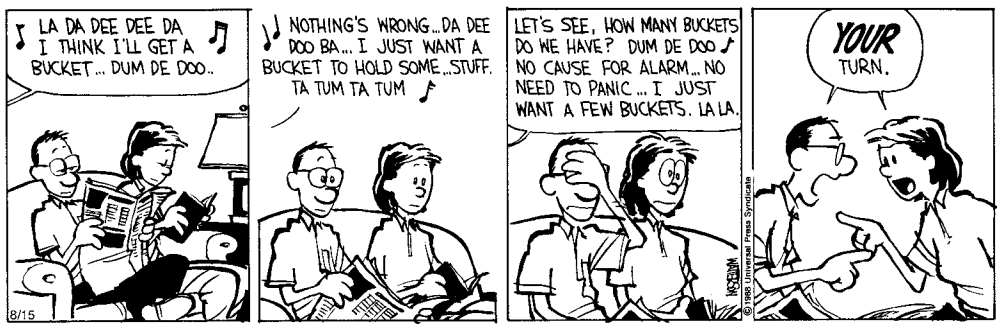
"It's a dynamic time for our organization and our art form," he said. "I'm incredibly proud to be part of it."

He has produced films such as "Akeelah and the Bee," "Big Daddy" and "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo." He's also worked for Sony Pictures, Paramount Pictures and Lucasfilm. Ganis has been a member of the film academy since 1968.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LA DA DEE DEE DA I THINK I'LL GET A BUCKET... DUM DE DOO..
NOTHING'S WRONG...DA DEE DOO BA... I JUST WANT A BUCKET TO HOLD SOME...STUFF. TA TUM TA TUM
LET'S SEE, HOW MANY BUCKETS DO WE HAVE? DUM DE DOO NO CAUSE FOR ALARM... NO NEED TO PANIC... I JUST WANT A FEW BUCKETS. LA LA.
YOUR TURN.
8/15
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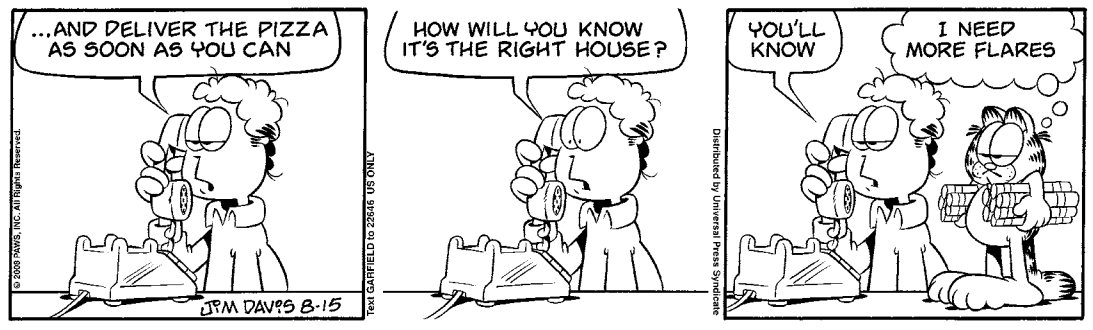
Garfield®

By Jim Davis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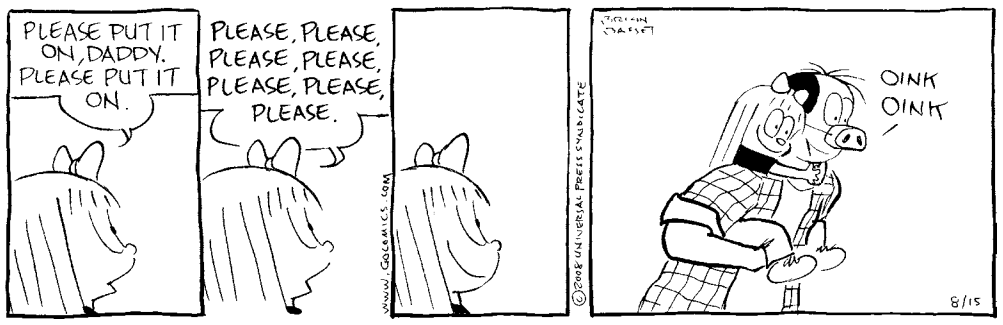
By Bryan Basset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PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE.
OINK OINK
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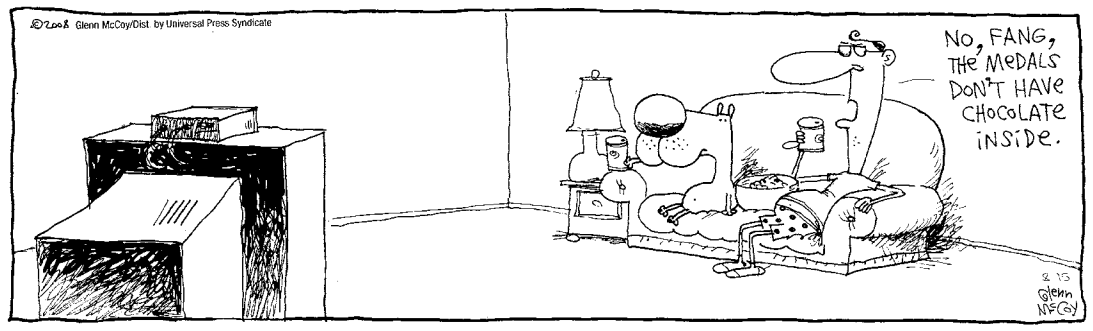
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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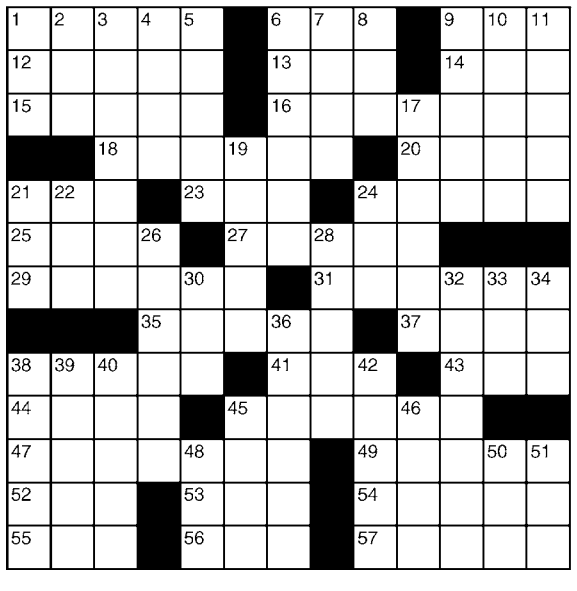
6 Blunder
9 Recipe meas.
12 Pack animal
13 Chit
14 H look-alike
15 "He's — nowhere man ..."
16 Conjectured
18 Minimal
20 Begged
21 "Monty Python" opener
23 Feedbag morsel
24 Sitcom surname
25 Busy one
27 Spandex material
29 Tranquilize
31 Knob
35 Its participants must form a line
37 Confederate soldiers
38 Harold of "Ghostbusters"
41 Upper limb
43 Lamb's mama
44 Sheltered
45 Overuses the mirror
47 Holy
49 Shocking weapon
52 Wager
53 "The Raven" writer
54 Each
55 Office holders
56 — Arbor, Mich.
57 Marsh plant

DOWN
1 Biz deg.
2 "— Town"
3 Ironed
4 Kazakhstan river
5 Target of the Salk vaccine
6 Septuagenarian's next milestone
7 Defeat soundly
8 Wish otherwise
9 Magnetic flux unit
10 Trusty horse
11 Rice field
17 Arose suddenly
19 Greek physician
21 Picks out of a lineup
22 Pirouette pivot
24 Support system?
26 Hydrophobia
28 Entry on a to-do list
30 "— the season..."
32 Not naked
33 Legislation
34 Storm center
36 Eden, for one
38 Shul VIP
39 Early "Tonight Show" host Steve
40 Is introduced to
42 Apportions
45 Toiler
46 Basilica section
48 Hot tub
50 Work unit
51 Catcher's place

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	C	K	■	W	I	T	■	C	L	U	E
E	C	H	O	■	A	D	O	■	E	A	R	S
E	N	I	D	■	T	A	G	■	S	N	A	P
R	E	C	I	P	E	■	A	C	I	D	L	Y
■	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	A	U	F	■	■
M	I	L	K	■	L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K
E	R	A	■	■	O	R	U	■	■	L	I	E
L	A	N	D	L	O	R	D	■	B	L	O	G
■	■	D	I	E	■	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
P	O	L	E	A	X	■	N	E	C	T	A	R
A	L	I	T	■	M	O	E	■	K	A	L	E
N	I	N	E	■	A	S	S	■	L	U	B	E
G	O	E	R	■	S	O	S	■	E	T	A	L

Yesterday's answer 8-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Affleck, 36; Debra Messing, 40; Jimmy Webb, 62; Linda Ellerbee, 64

Happy Birthday: You will not have the luxury of time this year. You will need to be swift and in tune with what everyone around you is doing so you can maneuver yourself into the perfect position. Taking direction but also giving it will be the base upon which you build your future. Master the art of pulling things together and you will discover what control really feels like. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 22, 35, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't leave anything to chance. Travel plans should be in the works and points of interest scheduled in. An opportunity to meet with potential clients or business associates along the way will help position you for greater success. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't hide the way you feel or what you expect from others. The more open you are, the better the outcome. If someone doesn't like it or doesn't agree with you, it may be time to distance yourself from this person. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't ignore the advice being offered, even if it is from an unusual source. A child's point of view may very well make you realize what's missing in your life. A money or property deal is looking good and may be your ticket to a better future. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Sudden changes will lead to alterations in your lifestyle, living arrangements or even your geographical location. Don't hesitate if something comes along that tempts you. Discussing a settlement, contract or investment will help you make a decision. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Where money, health and legal matters are concerned, keep things straight and honest. Once you exaggerate or give the wrong impression, things will go astray. A partnership should be nurtured. Plan an event that will help you bond. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do your own fact-finding before making a decision. You can't count on anyone to give you the information required, especially about business or legal or governmental changes. Put a little thought into your love life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your ability to find solutions will impress people you least expect. Creative accounting will help you budget. Keep things clean and simple. Once you get interest in what you are doing, support and cash will follow. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Deal with matters swiftly before they escalate. If you have been too busy to show attention to family, friends and those supporting your efforts, it's time to do something about it. Emotional deception will lead to changes. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be inclined to run yourself ragged. Before you plan too much or take on the impossible, make a to-do list. Don't let an emotional matter cause you to be nonproductive. Talk matters through and make the necessary changes. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone you are emotionally connected to will put you in an awkward position. Don't let sentiment cause you to cave. Work hard, do well and offer suggestions as to how others can follow in your footsteps. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Show what you have to offer and you will set yourself apart from the competition. A new partnership will bring about positive results and will build your confidence. Don't hesitate to make the necessary changes. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to make up your mind or take a back seat. Changes within your professional and personal life will cause a force play. Use your intuition and base your decision on what you see others do. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an opportunist—strong, courageous and focused on what you want to achieve. You are an entrepreneur, the go-to person who finds solutions and who can mastermind with ease.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		7	3				6	
					9			4
6			4					
3		9					4	
				7				
	5					8		9
					7			8
4			2					
	2				1	7		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	8	6	3	1	9	4	7
3	1	7	8	4	9	6	2	5
9	4	6	2	5	7	1	8	3
6	3	2	9	8	4	5	7	1
4	7	9	5	1	2	3	6	8
5	8	1	7	6	3	4	9	2
7	9	4	1	2	5	8	3	6
1	6	3	4	7	8	2	5	9
8	2	5	3	9	6	7	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE GOOGLE BOYS — Solution: 9 letters

P	M	A	D	L	A	I	C	O	S	E	E	K	S	D
L	A	I	C	N	A	N	I	F	T	P	U	T	(E)	S
Y	R	R	A	L	I	A	M	E	I	V	U	(G)	N	E
E	K	E	T	I	I	F	C	S	H	D	(A)	R	T	N
S	E	S	E	N	H	C	E	C	Y	(P)	I	O	R	I
W	T	O	X	K	E	C	K	D	E	M	R	W	E	G
O	I	U	T	S	I	R	R	O	P	S	I	T	P	N
R	N	R	G	V	T	O	S	A	O	W	S	H	R	E
B	G	C	R	L	F	Y	C	H	E	L	E	S	E	R
Y	E	E	U	N	O	T	L	B	I	S	T	E	N	A
E	S	S	A	S	O	B	S	I	M	P	I	C	E	W
G	E	T	U	O	E	I	A	A	A	E	S	I	U	T
R	S	R	L	O	T	F	P	L	G	D	I	F	R	F
E	T	S	I	E	M	S	U	W	E	I	V	F	S	O
S	S	E	S	N	I	R	B	L	S	K	C	O	T	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Signal

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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- 1996 Suzuki Swift 4DR SEDAN
- GREAT GAS MILEAGE
- Good Body condition with no rust
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Need Full-Time Live-In Nanny/Housekeeper in Los Angeles, California. Please contact John @ (671) 637-7775 or email JohnC1010@gmail.com

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2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

cranium PATELLA HUMERUS

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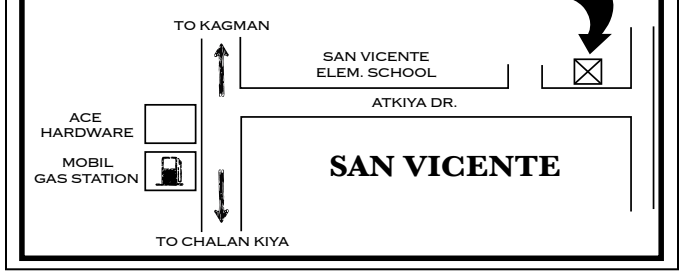
Find today's solution in this section

GARAGE SALE

CLOTHES, APPLIANCES AND MORE

Saturday, August 16, 2008 - 12:00nn to 5:00pm
Sunday, August 17, 2008 - 10:00am to 5:00pm



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Mo Williams joins LeBron on Cavs in 3-team deal

AP

In this March 22, 2008 file photo, Milwaukee Bucks' Mo Williams drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' Damon Jones (19) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers are getting some help for LeBron James.

High-scoring Milwaukee point guard Mo Williams is headed to Cleveland to join James as part of a three-team trade involving Milwaukee and Oklahoma City.

Agents for Williams and Desmond Mason said Wednesday a six-player deal is being finalized that reshapes the rebuilding Bucks while giving Cleveland an additional scoring threat and sends Mason to Oklahoma, where he's already a fan favorite.

The trade was previously reported by ESPN.com and media outlets in all three markets.

A Bucks spokesman said nothing is official until the league approves the trade. Approval was expected later Wednesday.

Williams' agent, Mark Bartelstein, said a scoring-minded point guard will make it easier on James and sharpshooter Daniel Gibson.

"I think there was so much pressure on LeBron to create so much of the offense in Cleveland," Bartelstein said. "I think somebody like Mo is going to really make the game easier for LeBron and create opportunities for other people."

In exchange for Williams, who averaged 17.2 points per game last season in the first year of a six-year, $51.5 million contract, the Bucks will receive Damon Jones from Cleveland along with guard Luke Ridnour and forward Adrian Griffin from Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City will get veteran forward Joe Smith from Cleveland and Mason from Milwaukee. Mason played in college at Oklahoma State and spent time with the Hornets franchise in Oklahoma City when it was relocated in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"We're excited," Mason's agent, Roger Montgomery said. "He's been to Oklahoma City, he's familiar with the people there, he's familiar with the Ford Center, he's played there, the fans loved him when he was there. His nickname is the Cowboy. It's really apropos to come back."

Ridnour, who averaged 6.4 points and four assists last season as the backup to Earl Watson in Seattle, had faced decreased playing time in Oklahoma City after the franchise drafted point guard Russell Westbrook with the fourth pick.

Griffin averaged 1.9 points in minimal playing time after coming over from Chicago in a midseason trade.

For the Bucks, it's the next step in an offseason facelift by new general manager John Hammond. Milwaukee fired coach Larry Krystkowiak after going 26-56 last season and replaced him with Scott Skiles.

Spain cagers defends controversial photo

AP

This undated photo provided by Seur taken in Madrid shows Spain's Olympic men's basketball team making slant-eyed gestures while posing for an Olympics publicity photo. The photo was originally part of a publicity campaign for team sponsor Seur and is being used solely in Spain.

BEIJING (AP)—Players on Spain's Olympic basketball team defended a photo in an ad showing the players using their fingers to apparently make their eyes look more Chinese.

The photo, which has been running as a newspaper spread in Spain since Friday, shows all 15 players making the gesture on a basketball court adorned with a Chinese dragon. The photo was part of a publicity campaign for team sponsor Seur, a Spanish courier company, and is being used only in Spain.

"It was something like supposed to be funny or something but never offensive in any way," said Spain center Pau Gasol, who also plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. "I'm sorry if anybody thought or took it the wrong way and thought that it was offensive."

Point guard Jose Manuel Calderon said the team was responding to a request from the photographer.

"We felt it was something appropriate, and that it would be interpreted as an affectionate gesture," Calderon, who plays for NBA's Toronto Raptors, wrote on his ElMundo.es blog. "Without a doubt, some ... press didn't see it that way."

International media criticized the photo. London's Daily Telegraph said Spain's "poor reputation for insensitivity toward racial issues has been further harmed" by the photo.

"This was clearly inappropriate, but we understand the Spanish team intended no offence and has apologised," Emmanuelle Moreau, a spokeswoman for the International Olympic Committee, said in an e-mail. "The matter rests there as far as the IOC is concerned."

The OCA, an organization representing Asian-Pacific Americans, also found the photo disturbing. "It is unfortunate that this type of imagery would rear it's head at a time that is supposed to be about world unity," George Wu, the group's deputy director, said in a statement.

The Spanish women's basketball team also posed for photo doing the same thing, and four members of Argentina's women's Olympic football team were shown making similar faces in a photograph published last week.

Gasol said it was "absurd" people were calling the gesture racist.

"We never intended anything like that," he said.

The Spanish basketball federation declined to comment Wednesday. "The players explained what happened," Villanueva said. "We think that's enough."

A Seur official in Madrid said the company had not intended to offend the Chinese people, but has no immediate plans to withdraw the ad, which is scheduled to run on selected days until the end of the games.

Seur has not received any formal protest or complaint from Chinese authorities, the official said on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak publicly about the situation.

It's not the first time Spanish sports has encountered questions over racist attitudes, and the photo comes at a time when Madrid is vying to host the Olympics.

"We're surprised by the remarks of racism," said Juan Antonio Villanueva, the communications director for the city's 2016 Olympic bid. "Spain is not a racist country—quite the opposite."

Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton was subjected to abuse at a Barcelona circuit in February, while former Spain coach Luis Aragones also used a racist remark about France striker Thierry Henry to motivate one of his players. Monkey chants rained down on England's black players during an international friendly against Spain in a match played in Madrid in 2004, soon after Aragones' outburst.

The basketball federation had just signed a four-year contract extension with Chinese clothing brand Li Ning shortly after arriving in the Chinese capital for the games.

"We have great respect for the far East and its people, some of my best friends in Toronto are originally Chinese, including one of our sponsors, the brand Li Ning," Calderon wrote. "Whoever wants to interpret it differently is completely confusing it."

Frank Zhang, Li Ning's director of government and public affairs, played down the incident.

"We don't think this is an insulting gesture to the Chinese," Zhang said. "In fact, the gesture shows that the Spanish team is so humorous, relaxing and cute. They sat around a dragon pattern, which we think showed respect to the Chinese.

Oden 'feeling good' after workout

TUALATIN, Ore. (AP)—Greg Oden can still dunk.

That much was clear Tuesday when the top pick in last year's NBA draft worked out in front of the media for the first time since right knee surgery wiped out his rookie season with the Portland Trail Blazers.

The 7-footer from Ohio State showed no signs of problems in two-on-two work with teammates Steve Blake and Channing Frye and former Arkansas star Steven Hill, a 7-footer invited to practice with Portland. Oden isn't allowed to go five-on-five until next month.

"I'm feeling good," Oden said. "I do not have any pain or soreness in my knee."

Asked whether he noticed Oden favoring his right knee, Frye dismissed it entirely.

"He favors dunking on your head, that's what he favors," Frye said after giving up his share to Oden in the workout.

Blazers fans fired up about Oden's arrival were stunned last year to learn that he needed microfracture surgery to stimulate cartilage growth by drilling tiny holes in the bone. Oden now says his right knee actually feels stronger than his left because of rehabilitation and conditioning.

The challenge at this point, he says, is mostly psychological, to stop worrying about the knee and to fulfill high expectations he knows fans have for the him and the team.

Oden is the first to admit he must start from scratch with his interrupted career.

"I'm still a rookie," he said. "I know I've got to keep that in mind and try not to let all the pressure overwhelm me."

Frye was supportive but mindful of Oden's own admission that he still lacks experience.

"For me, I don't know if this is the right thing to say, but he's yet to play in an NBA practice, he's yet to play in an NBA game, so I think the expectations are more on him personally than it is on everybody else," Frye said. "We know how good he can be, but he is still a rookie."

Frye offered the reminder that Portland also features All-Star Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge, who was named to the squad that prepared the U.S. men's national team for the Olympics.

Even without Oden last season, the Blazers were 41-41, nine games better than their 2006-07 record.

"I think a lot of people forgot how good we could have been last year," Frye said. "A lot of people say this is Greg's team. I think we're a great team and Greg is just a great addition."

Jets QB Favre says arm 'fatigued' at practice

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Brett Favre dropped back, looked downfield and launched a long spiral about 5 yards past his intended receiver. A few plays later, the Jets quarterback short-hopped a toss that thumped into the grass. "I felt 38 today," Favre said Wednesday after New York's morning practice. "I'm not going to lie to you."

Favre fired a few duds in his fifth practice since joining the Jets, saying his rocket right arm is a bit tired.

"My arm's kind of dragging a little bit today," Favre said. "It's not really sore, but just fatigued. To be honest with you, I'm surprised that, I don't want to say I feel good, that I've been able to make it through every practice so far."

Favre was acquired from the Green Bay Packers late last Wednesday night, and has been practicing with the Jets since Saturday. He's set to start Saturday's preseason game against the Washington Redskins.

"I didn't throw the ball that well this morning, underthrew some throws," Favre said. "No pain, but I'm 38 years old. It's going to be fatigued a little bit."

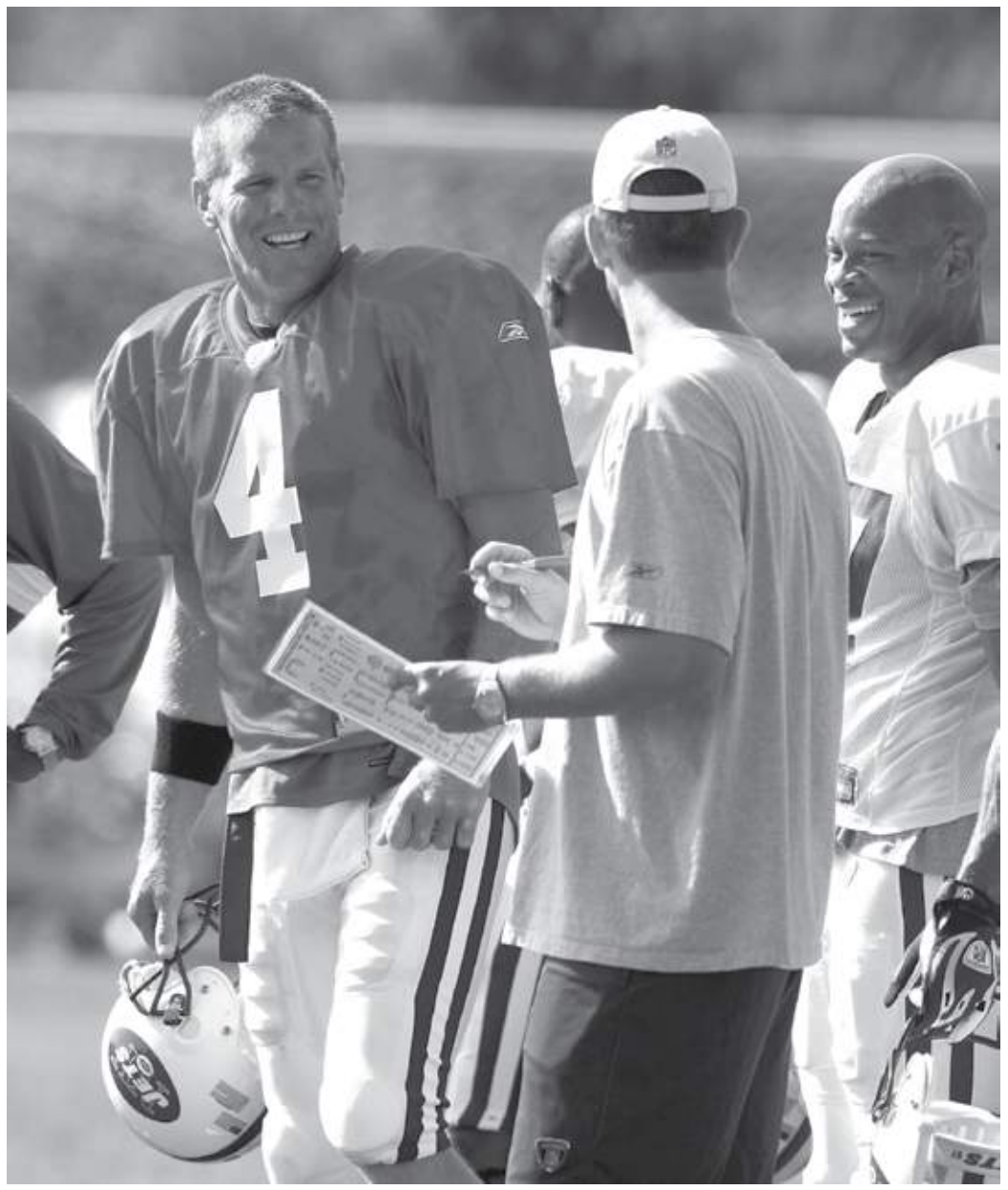
Favre said he would talk to coach Eric Mangini about limiting his throws in the afternoon practice. Mangini hadn't spoken to Favre when he met with reporters following the early workout.

"We only have two practices left before the game and we do monitor that stuff," Mangini said. "You guys talked to him more than I did, so I don't really know where he is with that."

Favre had some time to rest his arm Tuesday, when the team spent the day in meetings.

"My arm, for the most part, has felt great," he said. "Legs, a little bit fatigued. You've got to figure I'm a little bit behind some of these guys. I'm a little bit surprised that, up to this point, I've been doing OK."

Favre retired in March, but then decided he still wanted to play. After a messy divorce with Green Bay, the Packers traded him to New York, where he's going through his 18th training camp.



AP

New York Jets quarterback Brett Favre, left, and wide receiver Laveranues Coles, right, joke with the Offensive Coordinator Brian Schottenheimer during practice on Wednesday Aug. 13, 2008 at the teams practice facility at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

"I wondered this morning when I got up, 'What in the heck am I doing?'" Favre said. "The answer to that question is I love to play. I hate to study. At times, I hate to practice, but I love to play. I know I need to study and I know I need to practice and I know how important it is. That doesn't mean I have to like it. The question I have to ask myself is am I willing to do that? And the answer is yes."

Some have questioned Favre's desire to play in New York after he was linked mostly to Minnesota and Tampa Bay before the Jets made a late push for the three-time MVP.

"People can say what they want," said Favre, who has played in a record 253 straight regular-season games. "Yeah, there were discussions about me going elsewhere before I came here and all that. I am happy to be here. I really am. It's a lot different from what I'm used to. Did I ever think it would end up this way? Umm, no. But it's not over yet and I'm excited."

Favre, who took his second penalty lap—which was again cheered—since joining the Jets, ended the morning session on a good note. The three-time league MVP hit Brad Smith on a fourth-down play for 53 yards—about 45 in the air—down the right sideline for a touchdown.

"He still has it," tight end Bubba Franks said. "I think you can ask the receivers, he still has it."

Favre said the toughest parts of the adjustment are picking up the terminology used in a new offensive system and learning the tendencies of his new receivers. He asked to watch game films from last season to get better acquainted with the types of routes receivers such as Laveranues Coles, Jerricho Cotchery and Chris Baker run.

"They haven't thrown everything at me," Favre said, "but I could go into a game and I think I could manage a game OK."

Coles hasn't spoken to reporters since Favre was acquired and his good friend, Chad Pennington, was released to make room under the salary cap. Coles and Favre were seen on the field before practice having what appeared to be a friendly conversation

"I said, 'Look, I heard you're not talking to the media. I understand you don't want to say anything good about me. That's OK,'" Favre said with a chuckle. "He said, 'It's not that. It's not that.' I obviously was joking on that. I said, 'Look, I'm not here to take Chad's spot or replace him or whatever. It is what it is.'

"I said this the other day, I don't think I've ever beaten Chad. Those two guys had a great rapport together. I said, 'Look, I'm not trying to replace him. I'm here to help you guys win and I hope you respect me for that.'"

He'll get his first chance Saturday against the Redskins, though Favre isn't sure how long he'll play.

"I did tell Eric on the phone the day before I came up, I said, 'Hey, I want to play as soon as possible,'" Favre said. "I would've played three plays the other night (at Cleveland), but that would've been ugly. I don't know. I think we'll just play it by ear."

Panthers ready to forget Smith-Lucas incident

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP)—Ken Lucas' car was parked at the far edge of the parking lot for an early getaway before the start of the Carolina Panthers' final training camp practice. Not 10 minutes after the workout had ended Wednesday morning, the luxury sedan had already disappeared.

You can't blame Lucas for wanting to see Wofford College in his rearview mirror.

In what will be best remembered as the camp of star receiver Steve Smith's punch on Lucas that broke the starting cornerback's nose, the Panthers were ready to forget camp and the ugly incident that could've created the divisions and rifts that can tear apart a season.

"I think we're definitely on the right track as a team," receiver Muhsin Muhammad said. "Of course Ken Lucas played a big part in that."

Lucas stood in front of reporters last week, three days after Smith punched him while Lucas was on one knee with his helmet off and announced he had forgiven Smith. A day before, Smith apologized in a team meeting.

Lucas hasn't practiced since the fight, and underwent a minor procedure last week to set his nose. He hopes to be ready for the start of the regular season.

Smith returned to practice last week, but sustained a concussion in Saturday's preseason opener. Smith wasn't around for the final workout Wednesday and won't travel to Philadelphia for Thursday's game against the Eagles.

But perhaps it's best the Panthers play a game without Smith. The team suspended him without pay for the first two regular-season games, leaving the Panthers without their top playmaker against San Diego and Chicago.

Smith has said he made an "asinine decision" and vowed to earn back the respect of his teammates. He was seen in the past week talking privately to teammates. The volatile receiver was noticeably more low key in practice before getting shaken up making a leaping 19-yard grab against the Colts on Saturday.

But players say the reason they've moved on is Lucas' insistence that the matter didn't simmer.

"I think you see it on the practice field," quarterback Jake Delhomme said. "Guys are still working and still battling and I think that is a great sign."

If the Panthers can overcome the incident and Smith's suspension, the preseason has provided some optimism. The new-look offensive line, which includes first-round pick Jeff Otah, opened big holes for running back DeAngelo Williams in the preseason opener.

Defensive end Julius Peppers looked like his pre-2007 self against the Colts. They have more depth at receiver and linebacker.

While no player suffered a season-ending injury in camp, more than a dozen players have been sidelined for various ailments. The receivers and secondary have been the most hard hit, with D.J. Hackett's lingering injuries a concern with Smith unavailable the first two weeks.

But when linebacker Jon Beason was pulling Smith away from an angry pile of players that not only included Lucas, but many of his defensive teammates coming to his aid, the potential was there for a divided locker room that would last the season.

And while players jogged up the hill Wednesday to try to beat Lucas out of the parking lot, they wore smiles, the coach was happy and the Panthers seemed poise to overcome the incident.

"It was a good camp," coach John Fox said. "Like always, there are always tougher times than others. But I think we worked through everything pretty well. I like this group so far."

Titans LB Fowler considers steroids matter closed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee linebacker Ryan Fowler considers his steroids case with the NFL closed. Fowler said Wednesday he hasn't heard from the league since requesting a meeting to address allegations that he bought performance-enhancing drugs from a Texas-based steroids dealer in 2006.

The NFL sent him a letter in June stating he faced an investigation and possible suspension.

Fowler said he assumes the probe has ended with no punishment planned.

"Until I hear anything else, that's the way I'm looking at it right now," Fowler said after practice. "I'm focusing on football. Until I hear anything else, I'll assume it's over."

Fowler was linked to convicted steroids dealer David Jacobs, who was found dead with a female companion in his Plano, Texas, home in June in what police called a murder-suicide.

Jacobs told The Dallas Morning News before he died that he had supplied Fowler with drugs before and after the 2006 season, and he gave the NFL names of players who bought steroids from him.

The NFL did not immediately respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press.

Fowler has denied using any performance-enhancing drugs. His attorney has pointed out that Fowler never tested positive for any banned substance and had requested to meet with the NFL.

The linebacker signed with Tennessee in 2007 as a restricted free agent and started 14 games before hurting his shoulder at Kansas City in December. He said he's frustrated that the allegations came out and that he had to deal with the scrutiny.

"No matter what anybody says there's going to be people who automatically assume guilty until proven innocent, which is sort of a tough pill to swallow," Fowler said. "Now that it's over, or seems to be over, I'm trying to move on past it."

Hinkse's 3 hits, home run power Rays over A's

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Eric Hinske had three hits, including a home run, and Ben Zobrist doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh as Tampa Bay beat Oakland 3-2 on Wednesday.

Carlos Pena hit a home run for the first-place Rays, who maintained their three-game lead over Boston in the American League East. The Rays have won four of five and 10 of 14

Eric Patterson, who was recalled from Sacramento earlier Wednesday, drove in two runs for the A's, while Mark Ellis and Bobby Crosby both had two hits.

Andy Sonnanstine (12-6) lasted six innings, allowing two runs and six hits.

Sonnanstine became the quickest pitcher to 12 wins (119th game) in Rays history.

Grant Balfour and Dan Wheeler both pitched a scoreless inning and Troy Percival worked the ninth for his 27th save.

Mariners 10, Angels 7, 12 innings

At Anaheim, California, Seattle's Wladimir Balentien hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 12th inning after striking out four times as Seattle edged Los Angeles.

Raul Ibanez greeted Justin Speier (1-5) with a leadoff double and advanced on a groundout. After an intentional walk and a fly out, Balentien hit his sixth homer of the season.

Roy Corcoran (3-0) allowed one hit over three innings to get the win.

Ibanez was 4-for-5, including a solo homer in the sixth and an RBI single that capped a three-run ninth against Francisco Rodriguez, who also gave up a tying two-run double to Jeremy Reed. It was his fifth blown save in 51 attempts.

Mark Teixeira, who gave the Angels a 3-1 lead in the third with a two-run homer against Felix Hernandez, hit another leading off the bottom of the ninth against closer J.J. Putz. It was Teixeira's 21st multihomer game and third this season.

Red Sox 8, Rangers 4

At Boston, Kevin Youkilis had three doubles for Boston, which held onto a big lead this time to beat Texas.

A day after Youkilis delivered a three-run homer that gave the Red Sox a 19-17 victory, a win that came after they blew a 10-run cushion.

Texas trailed 8-0 in the eighth inning this time, and Milton Bradley's three-run homer made it 8-4. The Rangers then put their first two batters on base in the ninth before Ian Kinsler—leading the majors in hits—grounded into a double play.

The Red Sox scored twice in the second inning, four in the third and two more in the fifth off Luis Mendoza (3-6).

Youkilis and Jason Bay hit consecutive two-run doubles in the fourth and Jed Lowrie doubled in two more in the fifth.

Twins 4, Yankees 2

At Minneapolis, Delmon Young hit a three-run homer for the second straight day to lead Minnesota over New York

Kevin Slowey (9-8) pitched six innings, surrendering three hits, one run and one walk against a lineup minus Derek Jeter, who sat out after fouling a ball off his foot Tuesday.

Joe Nathan worked the ninth for his 32nd save.

The loss was the seventh in 10 games for the Yankees.

White Sox 4, Royals 0

At Chicago, Ken Griffey Jr. hit an RBI single in the first inning and Mark Buehrle allowed five hits in seven innings as Chicago blanked Kansas City.

Jermaine Dye added an RBI double to help keep the White Sox a half-game ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central.

The White Sox played without Carlos Quentin for the second straight game. Quentin, who is tied for the major league lead with 32 homers, was struck on the left forearm by a pitch from Josh Beckett on Monday night.

Buehrle (10-10) escaped a one-out, two-on jam in the third to maintain a 2-0 lead. He struck out five and walked none in improving to 7-3 at home with a 2.72 ERA.

Blue Jays 4, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Vernon Wells hit a grand slam and David Purcey pitched six shutout innings in Toronto's win over Detroit.

The Blue Jays have won three straight, all in Detroit, while the Tigers have lost 10 of 13.

Purcey (2-3) gave up two singles and three walks. He struck out four, and has allowed one earned run in 10 1-3 innings against the Tigers this season.

Kenny Rogers (8-10) lost his fourth straight start, giving up four runs, seven hits and three walks in 6 1-3 innings.

Toronto loaded the bases in the third without getting the ball out of the infield and Wells hit his fifth career grand slam.

Orioles 6, Indians 1

At Cleveland, Jeremy Guthrie went seven innings to win his fourth straight start and Baltimore snapped Cleveland's five-game winning streak.

Guthrie (10-8) allowed four hits and struck out four. In 10 starts since June 24, Guthrie is 7-1 with a 2.79 ERA.

Nick Markakis and Melvin Mora both had three hits for Baltimore. Markakis had a two-run single in a four-run ninth. Aubrey Huff opened the second with his 25th homer off Anthony Reyes (1-1).

Mets 12, Nationals 0

At Washington, Daniel Murphy homered and drove in three runs to help the New York Mets rout the Washington Nationals.

Murphy went 3-for-6 and is batting .467 (14-for-30) since being called up from minor league New Orleans on Aug. 2. His RBI single drove in the first run of the eight-run third that gave New York a 10-0 lead.

John Maine (10-7), making his first start since July 28 after being on the disabled list with a mild right rotator cuff strain, allowed one hit in five innings. He struck out six and walked four.

The Mets sent 13 batters to the plate in the third and scored eight runs on just four hits off starter Jason Bergmann (2-9), who walked five in a 51-pitch inning. The Nationals walked 11 overall in their sixth straight loss.

Cubs 10, Braves 2, 1st game
Cubs 8, Braves 0, 2nd game

At Atlanta, Rich Harden pitched five innings and Kosuke Fukodome drove in two runs with two hits in the second game and Chicago swept its first road doubleheader since 1992.

Geovany Soto and Jim Edmonds homered for the Cubs in the first game.

Harden (2-1) allowed two hits as the Cubs pushed their road winning streak to seven, their longest since June 2004. Harden combined with four relievers for the three-hit shutout, the team's fifth.

The National League Central leaders improved to 28-30 away from home. The Cubs have outscored the Braves 38-11 and are 5-0 in the season series.

Aramis Ramirez had a run-scoring single and Edmonds drove in a run before Fukodome's two-run single off Jorge Campillo (7-5) in Chicago's four-run first inning.

Jason Marquis (8-7) of the Cubs gave up two runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings in the opener.

Soto hit a two-run double in the second against Charlie Morton (3-6) and a two-run homer in the ninth.

Cardinals 6, Marlins 4

At Miami, Troy Glaus went 4-for-4 and Jason LaRue hit a go-ahead double in the seventh to lead St. Louis past Florida.

LaRue hit a two-out, two-run double with the bases loaded to break a 2-2 tie.

Braden Looper (11-9) gave up one earned run and five hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out five.

The Marlins scored twice in the eighth to pull within 5-4. Reliever Chris Perez got Josh Willingham to ground into an inning-ending double play with the bases loaded.

Glaus hit an RBI double in the ninth and Perez closed for his third save.

Pirates 5, Reds 2

At Pittsburgh, Paul Maholm pitched eight innings and Jason Michaels and Brandon Moss homered to lead Pittsburgh over Cincinnati.

Ryan Doumit had a two-run double and Michaels and Moss both had two hits for the Pirates. John Grabow pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Corey Patterson and Jay Bruce homered for Cincinnati, which has lost 15 of 18 games.

Astros 6, Giants 2

At Houston, Mark Loretta walked and was hit by a pitch during a wild sixth inning, and Houston downed San Francisco for its season-high seventh straight win.

The Astros scored six times in the sixth. San Francisco tied a major league record by hitting three batters in the inning, and issued four walks.

Houston's winning streak is its longest since a nine-game string in September 2006. The Astros have won 15 of 19 overall.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 5

At Denver, Colorado reliever Brian Fuentes issued an intentional walk with two outs in the ninth to load the bases, then retired Adam Dunn on a grounder to preserve Colorado's win over Arizona.

Arizona rallied within a run in the ninth on Stephen Drew's RBI single. With runners on second and third, Fuentes walked Conor Jackson to bring up Dunn.

Tinian cagers up in arms over on-and-off power

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The rolling power outage halted the Department of Corrections-Tinian game in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym, frustrating players, especially those suiting up for Tinian.

"We came all the way from Tinian, spent money from our own pockets for transportation and accommodations, only to go home with an unfinished game. It's really frustrating," team leader Anthony Borja said.

Six Tinian players came to Saipan for their game against DOC. The match started around 8pm, but was called off midway in the second period when the power went off. Around 9pm, referee Michael A. White called off the match.

"It's better to lose a game than have a match cancelled because of the power outage. Just imagine the effort, time and, money we spent for each game. We just love playing basketball that why we come here. But if it's always like this way, I don't know if we can still sacrifice," Borja added.

Four Tinian players paid $45 each for a roundtrip ferry fee and arrived on Saipan, five hours before the game. Two others were forced to take the plane and pay $80 for a roundtrip ticket, as they have to finish their work first before reporting for the game.

Since the ferry service to Tinian operates only until 5pm and the last regular flight bound for Tinian leaves Saipan at 6pm, the visiting players and some of their family members have to stay in a hotel and pay at least $50 for accommodations.

"I hope organizers could find ways to fix the games schedule," said Borja, who along with his five teammates left early yesterday morning to make it to their work on time.

Joey Dela Cruz of the Division of Sports and Recreation and one of the organizers of the PTI caging said in a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* that they were not expecting a power outage Wednesday night.

"The usual schedule of power outage in our area (Susupe) is from 12 noon to 2pm everyday. We were not given a notice on the new schedule. We will see if we can arrange something for Tinian or any other team for that matter," Dela Cruz said.

In the first game, the Bank of Guam Express and Aguaguat were lucky as they were able to finish the match with the former winning. The final score was unavailable as of press time.

The PTI caging has been going on for three months, but has yet to complete its single-round robin regular season due to the rolling power outage.

Schedule of games has been revised several times with the latest one done last Monday, after the Department of Public Safety pulled out of the tournament.

Excluding the cancelled DOC-Tinian game, the league has 13 more matches before concluding the regular season.

The playoffs was set to start on Aug. 26, but could be moved to the first week of September.

HEO

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but salvaged second runner-up honors after winning her third place match against Tarani Kamoe of Fiji, 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.

The girls' 13-and-under age group was won by Samuelle Bull of New Caledonia after she beat Shannon in the finals, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Jones, for his part, managed a fourth-place finish in his POJC debut despite losing his final two matches.

After barging into the quarters with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Xyril Posala of Samoa, the 13-year-old Saipan International School student lost to Clement Coarraze of New Caledonia, 2-6, 2-6.

Relegated to the battle for third, Jones started out on the right foot before fatigue got the better of him and he lost to Robin Morove of Papua New Guinea, 4-6, 6-1, retired.

Tahiti's Karl Yomes went on to win the division after fashioning out a 6-2, 6-4 victory over fellow Frenchman Coarraze.

The CNMI's other campaigner in the boys' 13-under, Christian Miller, wound up in eighth place after losing to Posala in the consolation pool, 4-6, 6-7 (5-7).

Arriola, meanwhile, posted her best finish in seven years of joining POJC by bagging fifth place in the girls' 18-under age group.

The 18-year-old University of Oregon aspirant, who finished sixth last year, defeated Amanda Korinihona of Solomon Islands, 6-1, 6-2, in the battle for fifth in her swan song in Lautoka, Fiji.

Samoa's Steffi Carruthers won the division after dominating Zinnia Leamana of Solomon Islands, 6-0, 6-1, in the championship round.

STEWART

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Tuesday, then flew to a meet in Fiji on Thursday, returned on the following Tuesday. It took awhile for me to get my feet on the ground. And it took about six months for me to really begin to enjoy living here," Stewart said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The rest is history, as Stewart helped CNMI swimmers win in various off-island tournaments and break over 30 national records.

Stewart had other moments with SSC and these he will share with his new team to relive the good times he had here.

"Watching Saipan kids' improvements will live with me forever. These kids listen to me tell stories of some of my past swimmers. Now, my new swimmers will have to sit and listen to some amazing stories about my Saipan Swimmers," Stewart said.

Among them was the team's performance in the South Pacific Mini Games in Palau with the NMI swimmers getting 22 medals and holding their ground against New Caledonia bets.

Stewart also mentioned last month's tournament, on which Grace Kimball set a new national age-group record in the girls' 11-12 100m freestyle event.

"Seeing Grace came out from our first season of lessons less than four years ago to become a national record holder is the kind of memory that will live with me forever," said Stewart, who admits he will miss his Saipan kids.

"When you go to a new program, you never miss swimmers, you always replace swimmers, but I can never replace the individuals themselves. They have been a part of my life. Their nicknames will stay with me forever. Gretchen, MP2, The Pinoy Boys, The Gentle Giant Blair, Sabrina, M&M, Torii with 2 eyes, Ahbara khadabra, Coach Emma to name a few," he said.

Michael Blasberg, a masters swimmer under Stewart's program, is now taking over SSC's coaching post.

Stewart wishes his namesake well and hopes SSC swimmers will continue to break records and make impressive marks in off-island tournaments.

"I wish for them to have 24-hour power, fresh food in stores, and clean water to train in. And to remember one lesson I have tried to instill. It's not up to your coach how fast you swim, it's all up to you. You need to make the commitment to swim fast, without it you lose," Stewart said.

"They all have potential, but the degree is different for everyone. It's what they do to maximize their potential that will allow them to go on and medal at meets," he added.

JR.

From Page 44

tournament.

That leaves Australia as the team to beat in the biennial meet, although Junior National coach Rufino Aguon believes New Caledonia and Tahiti also have tough lineups for the tournament.

Aguon's wards will be facing New Caledonia in their last game in Pool A on Sept. 30. The Junior Nationals second game will be against Papua New Guinea on Sept. 29.

Playing against Guam in their first game is sort of good news for the Junior Nationals, as they are quite familiar with Guamís style of play.

The CNMI and Guam played in last yearís Micronesian Basketball Tournament with the latter winning in the finals against Saipanís Southern Sonics. The NMI Junior Nationals were unbeaten in the pool play in MBT, but lost to the Sonics in the semis, foiling their bid for a finals duel with Guam.

Aguon does not know if Guam will be fielding the same players who played in MBT in next month's tournament. But whether Guam uses the same lineup or not, Aguon already told his players that the Oceania caging is very much different from MBT.

"Unfortunately I don't how who will play for Guam or how other teams play. But I do know that their program is organized and intense," Aguon said.

"Now, our players need to understand that this is a very different tournament and none of the kind of games they have experienced here and in MBT. We basically told them what they will be against, and at this same time we must train hard and let the chips fall as they may. The truth is the best motivation," Aguon said.

Aguon named the Junior Nationals last week. Making it on the team are Jericho Cruz, Jayvan Tarkong, Allen Moses, Marvin Rabauliman, Jomar Tumaquip, James Camacho, Joseph White, Jose Castro, Bill Babauta, and Antonio Borja.

Except for Babauta and Borja, the rest of the team has been training regularly at the NMC Gym and Oleai track oval since July. Babauta and Borja are now based in Guam, studying at the University of Guam, and will only be joining the team next month.

"They are doing their own workout so they will be ready for the tournament," Aguon said.

Cruz is among the five returnees to the team and will be the focal point of the Junior Nationals offense. He was the top scorer for the CNMI team in the MBT. Babauta, Rabauliman, Moses, and Tarkong also played in the MBT.

"We will probably have the smallest lineup in the tournament. With a small lineup, we will be a fast and defense-oriented team," Aguon said.

KATAJIMA

From Page 44

schedule, washing out rowing events at Beixiaoying Town near Beijing and delaying the canoe and kayak whitewater slalom competition. Baseball and softball games were also suspended by thunderstorms.

At Qingdao in southern China, site of the sailing competition, there was a different weather-related problem. For the second day in a row, lack of wind affected the start of seven races.

Kitajima won the 200 in 2 minutes, 7:64 seconds, coming up 0.13 short of his own world record set in June, but finished a half-body length ahead of silver medalist Brenton Rickard of Australia.

The home team celebrated when Liu won her race for China's first swimming gold medal of the games, setting the world mark of 2:04.18. Jiao Liuyang also went under the previous best to give the teammates a 1-2 finish and send the crowd into a frenzy.

"I didn't expect that I could swim so fast," Liu said. "I've only improved in the last year."

Australia, led by Stephanie Rice, set the 18th world swimming record of the Beijing Games in the women's 4x200-meter freestyle relay, obliterating the previous mark by nearly six seconds to upset the Americans.

Michael Phelps took care of a routine matter, advancing to the final of the 200-meter individual medley. With five golds and five world records, Phelps merely had to get by the semifinals of the 200 IM.

He won his heat and moved on to Friday with the second-best qualifying time, 1:57.70. He needs three more golds in Beijing to surpass Mark Spitz's record total of eight at the 1972 Munich Games.

China continued its domination of gymnastics. After winning both men's and women's team events, Yang Wei took the men's all-around title that had eluded him for eight years.

Yang, the two-time defending world champion, finished with 94.575 points Thursday, nearly three points ahead of Kohei Uchimura of Japan. Yang had finished second to Alexei Nemov in 2000 and fell apart at the Athens Olympics.

"Today was perfect," Yang said. "I felt tired before the competition, but after it I feel relaxed."

Du Li of China rebounded from an earlier defeat, winning gold in the women's 50-meter, three-position rifle event. Du led by one point entering the finals and shot a 101.3 to win the event with an Olympic record 690.3 points.

A controversial photo involving Spain's men's basketball team seemed to be no distraction for the world champions, who defeated Germany 72-59. Pau Gasol, the Los Angeles Lakers center, scored 13 points for Spain, which was cheered by the crowd at the basketball arena.

There was no indication Spain had been affected by criticisms of an ad running in Spanish newspapers showing all 15 members of the team using their fingers to apparently make their eyes look more Chinese. A spokeswoman for the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday called the photo "clearly inappropriate," but said the team had intended no offense and apologized.

Australia, which lost its first two matches, beat Iran 106-68 led by Brad Newley's 24 points.

Later gold medals were to be awarded in fencing, Greco-Roman wrestling and team dressage in equestrian.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	72	47	.605	_
Boston	70	51	.579	3
New York	64	57	.529	9
Toronto	62	59	.512	11
Baltimore	57	62	.479	15

Central Division

Chicago	67	52	.563	_
Minnesota	67	53	.558	1/2
Detroit	58	62	.483	9 1/2
Cleveland	54	65	.454	13
Kansas City	54	66	.450	13 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	75	44	.630	_
Texas	61	60	.504	15
Oakland	55	64	.462	20
Seattle	46	74	.383	29 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	64	56	.533	_
Philadelphia	64	56	.533	_
Florida	63	58	.521	1 1/2
Atlanta	55	65	.458	9
Washington	44	77	.364	20 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	73	47	.608	_
Milwaukee	70	51	.579	3 1/2
St. Louis	67	56	.545	7 1/2
Houston	61	59	.508	12
Pittsburgh	55	65	.458	18
Cincinnati	53	68	.438	20 1/2

West Division

Arizona	61	59	.508	_
Los Angeles	61	59	.508	_
Colorado	54	68	.443	8
San Francisco	50	69	.420	10 1/2
San Diego	46	74	.383	15

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 10, Atlanta 2st game
Chicago Cubs 8, Atlanta 0nd game
Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 2
N.Y. Mets 12, Washington 0
St. Louis 6, Florida 4
Houston 6, San Francisco 2
Colorado 6, Arizona 5
Milwaukee 7, San Diego 1
L.A. Dodgers 7, Philadelphia 6
Minnesota 4, N.Y. Yankees 2
Boston 8, Texas 4
Toronto 4, Detroit 3
Baltimore 6, Cleveland 1
Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 0
Tampa Bay 3, Oakland 2
Seattle 10, L.A. Angels 7, 12 innings

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Partial Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
CHN	20	7	5	32
USA	10	9	13	32
AUS	5	4	7	16
FRA	2	7	5	14
KOR	6	6	1	13
ITA	5	4	3	12
RUS	2	7	3	12
JPN	5	3	3	11
GER	6	1	3	10
GBR	2	2	3	7

By The Associated Press

24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Far left, *The Marianas* of captain Joseph Muna topped the yellow fin category with its 49.10-lb. catch.

Left, the captain and crew of *MV Gloria II* pose with their first place trophy after a record-breaking catch in the wahoo category. MV Gloria II landed a 52.85-lb. catch on Day 1 of the tournament.

Below, *Chacha II* of captain Stan Waki and crew Greg Perez and Norman Tenorio won the billfish division with their catch tipping the scales at 277.5 lbs.

Emmanuel of captain Mike James of Guam prevailed in the mahi-mahi category with its catch weighing 19.15 lbs.

A *Cabo Express* angler shows the additional $900 cash they won for landing the heaviest single catch in the tournament, a 484-lb. marlin.

Jim Taman, son of the late Jacinto "Timayong" Ngirangao Taman, thanks the Saipan Fisherman's Association after his father was posthumously awarded a plaque of recognition during the awards banquet for the 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan for his significant contribution to sports fishing.

Former SFA president and now Rep. Diego T. Benavente, left, hugs Lyn Taman, wife of the late Jacinto ìTimayongî Ngirangao Taman, who was awarded a plaque of recognition during the awards banquet for the 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan for his significant contribution to sports fishing.

Captain Steve Pixley of *Zeppelin* and crew members Ben Laborte, Jim Hollman, and Ron Biggeo landed the heaviest catch in the skipjack category at 21.65 lbs.

Supreme Court Judge Alex Castro, who is also the captain of *Carmelita*, holds the Mobil Cup trophy given to the boat with the heaviest total catch in the two-day tournament.

Tinian cagers up in arms over on-and-off power

The rolling power outage halted the DOC-Tinian game, frustrating players, especially those suiting up for Tinian.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mo Williams joins LeBron on Cavs in 3-team deal

The Cleveland Cavaliers are getting some help for LeBron James.

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Heo settles for second in POJC

Thea, Rafael, Mayuko also finish in Top 5

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ji Hoon Heo again settled for runner-up honors in the boys' 18-under of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after losing to close friend and practice partner Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu yesterday at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student said his finals performance was bothered by an assortment of injuries that finally took its toll on Heo after he topped pool play and won his first two matches in the knockout round with relative ease.

"My ankle is still bad and I am in a very bad condition. Although I was not fit, I still made it to the finals. I don't think I was mentally and physically ready to beat the guy in the finals. Although I lost today in the finals at least I made a strong comeback. I am still recovering from my toe injury and also my ankle [injury]," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo lost to Pineda in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2.

Heo, who has been off-island competing as part of the Pacific Oceania Junior Tennis Team since June, vowed to make amends in the 2008 Oceania Plate next week.

"I hope I will do better in the second week so I will be getting more [ITF] points. I will also try going to Japan with the New Caledonian team," he said.

Last year in the 2007 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, Heo lost to Daneric Hazelman of Fiji in two highly competitive sets in the boys' 18-under finals, 7-6 (9), 6-2.

Also finishing in the Top 5 of their age groups in the 2008 POJC were Heo's teammates Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, and Mayuko Arriola.

Minor wound up third in the girls' 13-under division. She lost her semifinal match against Annie Shannon of Fiji, 6-1, 6-2,

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Heo

Minor

Jones

Arriola

DAN KIMBALL

Michael Stewart, seen here in a file photo from one of the many ocean swims he organized, left Saipan and the Saipan Swim Club last month after four years of coaching the club.

Stewart reminisces moments with SSC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Stewart is now in Taos, New Mexico, coaching a new team and probably sharing stories about his old ones.

Stewart left Saipan and SSC last month after four years of coaching the club, leaving memories which will always be a part of his coaching career.

The former SSC mentor arrived on Saipan in May 2004, finding the new challenge he was looking for as a coach.

"I was looking for a new challenge in my life through coaching. Saipan seemed at the time to be a great challenge. But to be honest, I did not like Saipan much in the beginning. I arrived on a

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Kitajima, Liu star for Asia at Beijing Olympics

By DENNIS PASSA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—Kosuke Kitajima and Liu Zige gave Asia a pair of gold medals in the Olympic pool Thursday, with Kitajima stamping himself as the breaststroker of the decade.

The Japanese swimmer swept the breaststroke events in his second straight Olympics, and Liu set a world record for the host country in the 200-meter butterfly.

Kitajima became the first swimmer to claim both the 100 and 200 gold medals at consecutive games.

"I was so calm that I think I could have seen each face in this venue," Kitajima said. "I enjoyed my race."

Outside, it was decidedly soggy.

Rain played havoc with the

See KATAJIMA on Page 42

RELATED NEWS

Spain defends controversial photo **PAGE 39**

AP

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima waves after getting the gold medal during the medal ceremony of the men's 200-meter breaststroke final during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008.

Jr. Nationals to debut vs Guam in Oceania caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Jr. Nationals will square off against Guam in its opening game in the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao next month.

The Oceania youth basketball competition will run from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 with eight teams competing for the championship.

The CNMI Junior Nationals are in Pool B along with Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Guam. Pool A is composed of Australia, Palau, Fiji and Tahiti.

Defending champion New Zealand, which beat Australia in the finals in 2006, 104-94, is not joining this year's

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